



**Shamokin
Area
Community
Hospital**

4200 Hospital Road • Coal Township, PA 17866-9697
Phone 570-644-4229 • Fax 570-644-4351
www.shamokinhospital.org

February 14, 2008

Marc P. Volavka
Executive Director
Pennsylvania Health Care Cost Containment Council
225 Market Street, Suite 400
Harrisburg, PA 17101

Dear Mr. Volavka:

I am submitting the following comments in regards to the upcoming publication of hospital-acquired infection data for 2006.

Shamokin Area Community Hospital is committed to providing the highest quality of patient care, and we continue to focus our efforts on reducing hospital-acquired infections (HAI's) to the lowest possible level. We have provided mandatory staff education on reducing infections, and will continue to identify best practices to help us achieve our infection reduction goals. Our organization will work with our local long-term care facilities to implement policies and protocols that reflect a collaborative approach that not only address the requirements of Act 52, but also improve overall patient care within the region. We take our obligation to improving patient outcomes very seriously, and will work diligently to meet or exceed our goals.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide these brief comments, and to assure our patients of our commitment to reducing HAI's.

Sincerely,

Thomas R. Harlow, FACHE
President and Chief Executive Officer

VIA FACSIMILE and U.S. Mail