



Hazleton General Hospital

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October 16, 2008

David H. Wilderman
Acting Executive Director
Pennsylvania Health Care Cost Containment Council
225 Market St.
Suite 400
Harrisburg, PA 17101

Dear Mr. Wilderman:

Thank you for the opportunity to respond to this year's Hospital-acquired Infection Report.

Our reporting notes a large increase in the number of gastrointestinal infections. This is reflected in our internal numbers, as well. This is due, in part, to a better understanding of the definition of healthcare-acquired gastrointestinal infections. We recognize that this needs to be an area of increased focus on our part. We have recently begun a performance improvement program, using our rapid-cycle intervention process, to determine if the use of prophylactic pro-biotics can decrease the incidence of hospital-acquired gastrointestinal infections.

We at Hazleton General Hospital are committed to providing quality, cost effective health care to our customers. We look forward to working with you in the future to achieve this goal.

Yours truly,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Barbara A. Vilushis".

Barbara A. Vilushis, DO
Associate Medical Director, GHHA

Our *heart* is in healthcare.