

JEFFERSON REGIONAL MEDICAL CENTER

Medical excellence closer to home

October 16, 2008

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

Dear Mr. Wilderman:

Jefferson Regional Medical Center continues to reduce hospital-acquired infections (HAI) as evidenced in the Pennsylvania Health Care Cost Containment Council (PHC4) report, Hospital Acquired Infections in Pennsylvania.

According to the report, Jefferson Regional reduced reported infection rates in virtually every category. In fact, Jefferson Regional has established a strong record of continually reducing infection rates for several consecutive years.

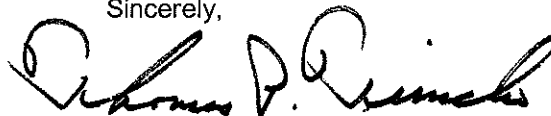
Most notably, when examining reported rates for those infections that are the most life-threatening, bloodstream infections, Jefferson Regional outperforms both its Peer Group and hospitals across Pennsylvania. For three consecutive years, Jefferson Regional has been honored with the APEX Award for *eliminating* bloodstream infections related to central lines in its Cardiovascular and Intensive Care Units.

Jefferson Regional expects that until all hospitals move to standardized reporting, its rate of reported infections will be higher than its peers in some categories simply because the Medical Center seeks out and documents infections so aggressively. For example, Jefferson aggressively tracks and reports surgical site infections that present after the patient is discharged from the hospital. The Medical Center's aggressive identification of infections is the best way to create a safer environment for patients, despite that the documentation results in a higher reporting rate in the PHC4 report.

Not only will the gap in reporting rates between organizations narrow when all hospitals move to electronic surveillance systems, the gap will continue to diminish when all hospitals can thoroughly identify and document infections that are present on admission (POA).

As part of its ongoing commitment to eliminate HAI, Jefferson Regional Medical Center is investing in an electronic surveillance system to assist in earlier identification of infections. In addition to preventative measures, the Medical Center will continue its aggressive detection of infections because early identification results in earlier intervention and lower hospital charges. In fact, Jefferson Regional's average charge, as reported by PHC4, is lower in every case than all hospitals across Pennsylvania, sometimes the charges are less than half of what other hospitals charge.

Sincerely,



Thomas P. Timcho
President and Chief Executive Officer

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