

October 15, 2008

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

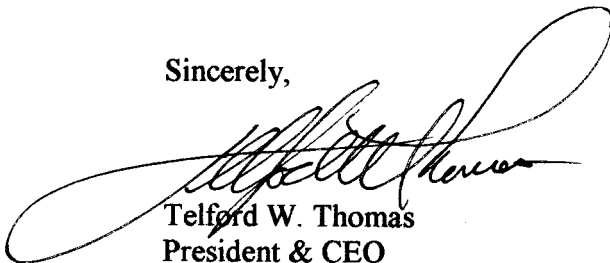
Dear Mr. Wilderman,

Thank you very much for the opportunity to review our data for the upcoming "Hospital Acquired Infections in Pennsylvania" report.

The Washington Hospital is pleased that our intensive efforts to implement best-practices in infection control continue to result in lower rates of infection per 1000 cases than our peer group or Pennsylvania as a whole.

Our data did show a slightly higher mortality rate compared to other Pennsylvania hospitals. We have completed a thorough medical record review of each of these cases and found that the majority of the deaths were due to either cancer or cardiac events and not the hospital-acquired infections. Please note also that as part of our usual quality improvement activities, every hospital mortality is reviewed by our infection prevention and control practitioners to determine if infection played a role in the patient's death. If such a case is found, it is determined to be a sentinel event and a root cause analysis is performed to identify potential opportunities to improve care for our patients.

Sincerely,



Telford W. Thomas
President & CEO
The Washington Hospital