



# Titusville Area Hospital

Anthony J. Nasralla, FACHE  
President and Chief Executive Officer

December 5, 2002

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

Dear Mr. Volavka:

Titusville Area Hospital wishes to comment on the Hospital Performance Report for 2001. While the Hospital performed well overall, one DRG stood out as having a higher than expected mortality rate.

DRG 123 - Heart Attack showed that of the 60 cases received, 36 were transferred to a tertiary care facility. Titusville Area Hospital does not perform cardiac catheterization and, therefore, transfers all patients needing that care. Of the remaining 24 cases, 9 patients expired. In reviewing each of these cases, it was noted that 7 of the 9 were patients with multiple co-morbidities and "Do Not Resuscitate" orders in place.

While the sample size is marginally adequate, the insight that most of these patients had long established relationships with their physician, understood their condition and wished to execute a living will must be taken into consideration.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on the data.

Sincerely,

  
Anthony J. Nasralla, FACHE  
President/CEO

AJN:pn

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