

The logo for Central Montgomery Medical Center features a stylized blue arch of dots above the text "Central Montgomery" in a serif font, with "Medical Center" in a smaller, italicized serif font below it.

Central
Montgomery
Medical Center

October 10, 2003

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

Dear Mr. Volavka,

Thank you once again for the opportunity to comment on the recently released Hospital Performance Report 2002. Central Montgomery Medical Center remains committed to the process of outcomes analysis and continuous improvement of performance in all areas of patient care delivery.

Aggregated data for the year 2002 demonstrates mortality outcomes in 16 of 20 categories within the expected rate ranges. Additional analysis of 100% of the mortalities in the remaining categories finds the following:

Kidney Failure: Review finds 85% of patient mortalities involved a Do Not Resuscitate status, which impacts the extent to which we may aggressively treat patients in very clinically compromised conditions. The average age of this patient group was 76.8. In all cases there were significant existing co-morbidities.

Infectious Pneumonia: Review finds 96% of patient mortalities involved a Do Not Resuscitate status; 16 of 26 patients were Nursing Home residents, who typically present with a complex array of debilitating conditions. The average age was 83.0.

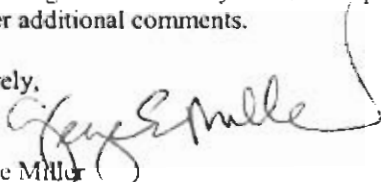
Aspiration Pneumonia: Review finds 86% of patients with a Do Not Resuscitate status; 10 of 15 patients were Nursing Home residents and the average age was 77.3

Radical Prostatectomy: The sample size in this category was very small (19). One mortality involving a significant complicating condition accounts for this rate, which falls into a category of higher than expected.

All cases of mortality reflected one or more significant co-morbid conditions including among others, metastatic cancer, chronic cardiac and pulmonary pathologies and diabetes.

We are confident that all of the cases reviewed demonstrated clinical management within the highest standards of care. Understanding the limitations of any risk adjusted outcomes system in terms of recognizing all contributory factors to a patient's outcome, we are appreciative of the Council's opportunity to offer additional comments.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "George Miller", is written over a faint circular stamp or watermark.

George Miller
Chief Executive Officer