



October 13, 2003

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

Dear Mr. Volavka:

Jefferson Regional Medical Center would like to express our appreciation for the opportunity to review and comment upon our 2002 data. The information provided by PHC4 enables us to assess our performance within the context of comparison with the performance of others in the state and in the region. We routinely use this type of information, as well as benchmarking data from other sources, to assess and improve the quality and safety of our patient care.

As shown in this current report, patient outcomes at Jefferson Regional Medical Center across all groups are comparable to expected outcomes. We are pleased to see that across all patient groups analyzed by PHC4 this year, our mortality rates were within the expected range for our institution.

One area of particular note in this report is the higher than expected rating for short stay outliers in non-hemorrhagic stroke patients. We demonstrated very similar results in this item in the PHC4 report last year. This current finding is the result of 19 patients with shorter than expected length of stay. Detailed review of these cases showed that 21% of these cases had plans of care for comfort measures only due to their poor prognosis, and were quickly stabilized in our facility and returned to other levels of care. Approximately 43% of these cases had a short length of stay as a result of our usual approach for rapid medical intervention, patient mobilization, and rehabilitation in which patients are able to move to the rehabilitation setting within a short period of time. The remaining short stay cases involved individuals who had relatively minor strokes, and were medically stable and able to be discharged back to their home settings.

Jefferson Regional Medical Center is committed to ensuring that patients receive the appropriate level of care to meet their needs, and our clinical staff work hard to return patients to a state of wellness and their usual lifestyles as soon as possible. We have been able to do this in patients suffering from a stroke in many cases, as demonstrated in this report. Our excellence and efficiency in the provision of care for stroke patients was also previously recognized on a national level by Solucient when Jefferson Regional Medical Center was awarded top 100 status in stroke care.

Thank you for this report, and the ability to provide further information regarding ~~the data provided.~~ We appreciate the work of PHC4 to inform the public regarding health care in Pennsylvania and provide hospitals with information that can be used to continuously improve the quality of our services.

Sincerely,



Robert Horn
Senior Vice President
Jefferson Regional Medical Center

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