



Sacred Heart Hospital

Affiliated with Sacred Heart HealthCare System

421 Chew Street
Allentown, PA 18102-3490
(610) 776-4500

October 9, 2003

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

Dear Mr. Volavka,

I am writing on behalf of Sacred Heart Hospital in response to the upcoming release of the 2002 Hospital Performance Report. Sacred Heart Hospital remains committed to quality improvement and supports the Pennsylvania Health Care Cost Containment Council in that effort.

In the data to be published, Sacred Heart Hospital is reported as having a mortality greater than expected with the diagnosis of blood clot in extremities.

The expected mortality range was 0-1 for this diagnosis. The hospital's mortality rate included 2 patients. Neither expired as a direct result of the extremity blood clot. The first patient had a terminal brain tumor and was placed on Hospice during this admission. The second patient had a severe cardiac history and multiple co-morbidities, including a Lupus anticoagulation disorder. He was 14 days post coronary bypass surgery when he expired while on anticoagulation therapy.

We appreciate your review of this comment and its inclusion in the published report.

Please call me if you have any questions regarding the above information.

Sincerely,

**Joanne Lee, RN, BA, CPHQ
Director Quality Management**