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September 17, 2004

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

Dear Mr. Volavka:

This letter is in response to the *Hospital Performance Report for Discharges from October 1, 2002 through September 30, 2003*. Community Medical Center supports the work of the Pennsylvania Health Care Cost Containment Council and utilizes the information from this report and many other sources, to make improvements in quality and service for our patients.

The results as outlined in the Performance Report, indicate Community Medical Center's Performance meets or exceeds the standards when compared to other facilities. We do however want to comment on a few areas identified as having a longer than expected LOS and one area of higher than expected readmission:

Higher than expected Readmission rate:

- DRG 418 Infection after Surgery or Trauma - a higher than expected readmission rate was noted for this DRG. All 6 cases were analyzed and no trends identified. Each case involved different circumstances or surgeries. One of these 6 cases had surgery performed at another hospital but was readmitted to CMC rather than the original facility.

Higher than expected LOS:

- Of the five (5) DRG categories cited for "higher than expected LOS", it was determined upon review, that in the majority of these cases a longer length of stay was due to either age, increased co-morbidity, high severity, and awaiting placement in nursing homes or transitional care. One additional case involved obtaining guardianship for a patient who required nursing home placement and resulted in a prolonged length of stay.

We thank you for the opportunity to comment on our hospital's performance data.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'C. Richard Hartman', with a stylized flourish at the end.

C. Richard Hartman, MD
President and CEO