

Cedar Crest & I-78
PO Box 689
Allentown, PA 18105-1556

LEHIGH VALLEY
HOSPITAL AND
HEALTH NETWORK

September 15, 2004

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

Dear Mr. Volavka:

We appreciate the opportunity to be able to submit comments regarding the soon-to-be released 2003 Hospital Performance Report and applaud the Council for its ongoing efforts to inform the public of performance outcomes.

The Performance Report indicated that Lehigh Valley Hospital-Muhlenberg's mortality rating was greater than expected for Transurethral Prosectectomies. Upon review of the two mortalities, both patients were greater than 79 years of age and had a number of comorbidities. One patient had metastatic disease and an abdominal aortic aneurysm.

The Performance Report for Lehigh Valley Hospital – Muhlenberg and Lehigh Valley Hospital also reflected a higher than expected readmission rate for Diabetes Medical Management. Upon review of the readmissions the majority are unrelated to the original hospitalization. Additionally, since this data includes patients who may have been readmitted at other hospitals we do not have any way of knowing whether the readmissions were related to the original hospitalization.

Lehigh Valley Hospital-Muhlenberg had a higher than expected readmission rate for Kidney and Urinary Tract Infections. Upon review of the 3 patients who were readmitted to our hospital, two readmissions were unrelated and the third had a chronic indwelling Foley catheter and refused a urological workup. All patients were residents of nursing homes.

Again, we thank you for the opportunity to comment to this report. Any questions please do not hesitate to contact me at 610-402-1770.

Sincerely,



Zubina Mawji, MD, MPH
Senior Vice President
Quality and Care Management

