



MEADVILLE  
MEDICAL  
CENTER

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September 8, 2004

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

Dar Mr. Volavka:

Enclosed please find comment on Meadville Medical Center's data regarding mortality rates on patients in DRG 203, Liver, Gallbladder or Pancreatic Cancer.

Of 14 total discharges within this DRG, the expected mortality rate was calculated at 1.5. The actual mortality rate calculated at 5. The expected range was calculated at 0 – 4. Because of the small number of discharges, the mortality rate was higher than expected.

Of the five patients who expired:

- 4 were graded with an admission severity score of 3, higher than average.
- All 5 were DNR at the time of their demise.
- 2 were receiving terminal care only and/or had refused further treatment.
- 4 had extensive metastasis documented.

Overall, based on the comorbid conditions present, medical stability upon admission and code status, the outcomes experienced were not unexpected for Meadville Medical Center.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on this data.

Sincerely,

Linda Zadrozny, BSN, RN  
Quality Director