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www.monvalleyhospital.com

September 14, 2004

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

Dear Mr. Volavka:

The following are the comments submitted on behalf of Monongahela Valley Hospital, Inc. in response to the release of The Hospital Performance Report for October 1, 2002 through September 30, 2003.

The Hospital was identified as having a statistically significant high mortality rate in one (1) area: Kidney Failure.

The Hospital treated 67 patients with this condition and twelve (12) patients died. The average age of those patients that died was 86 years old. These patients had previous/additional medical conditions which included congestive heart failure, cancer, diabetes, aortic valve disease, aspiration pneumonia, COPD, previous stroke and senile dementia. Ten (10) of the twelve (12) patients had Do Not Resuscitate orders signed by the patient or significant other due to the overall poor health condition of the patient.

The Hospital has an effective Performance Improvement program and all of these cases were reviewed as part of that program. Following review, no areas of concern were identified.

The Hospital's mission is to enhance the health of the residents of the mid-Mon Valley and the Hospital continues its commitment to provide our community with the highest quality care to meet their health care needs.

Very truly yours,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Donna Ramusivich".

Donna L. Ramusivich
Senior Vice President

DLR:kq