



Sacred Heart Hospital

Affiliated with Sacred Heart HealthCare System

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September 17, 2004

Marc P. Volavka
Executive Director
Pennsylvania Health Care Cost Containment Council
Suite 400, 224 Market Street
Harrisburg, Pa. 17101

Dear Mr. Volavka,

I'm writing on behalf of Sacred Heart Hospital in response to the upcoming release of the 2003 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 Diabetes with Medical Management.

The expected mortality range was 0-2 for this diagnosis. The hospital's mortality rate included 3 patients. Two of the three patients were elderly with multiple comorbidities. Both were admitted with "No resuscitation" orders.

The third patient, although younger, had severe medical problems including end-stage renal disease and severe peripheral vascular disease. The patient was also non-compliant with his health care interventions.

All three patients were admitted with critically elevated blood sugars that in conjunction with their complicated medical histories resulted in their poor outcomes.

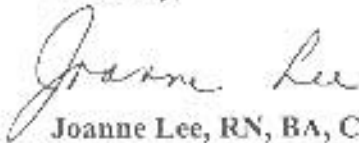
Sacred Heart Hospital is also reported as having a higher than expected readmission rate for Complicated Bronchitis and Asthma. The expected readmission range was 1-8 patients. Our hospital had 11 readmissions with 4 of those going to other hospitals; so only 7 returned to Sacred Heart.

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Upon review of the records, one case in the database was from 2002 and should not be included in the report. Reasons identified for readmission included return for elective cardioversion and non-compliance on part of the patient. Only four cases were readmitted for similar diagnosis. There was one readmission for complication: infection and the hospital expected range was 0-3 for complications/infections.

We appreciate your review of these comments and their inclusion in the published report.

Sincerely,



Joanne Lee, RN, BA, CPHQ
Director, Case Management/Quality Improvement