



UPMC St. Margaret

A hospital of
UPMC Health System

September 16, 2004

615 Freeport Road
Pittsburgh, PA 15211

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

Dear Mr. Volavka:

UPMC St. Margaret would like to thank the Pennsylvania Health Care Cost Containment Council for providing the opportunity to comment on the outcome data for the PHC4's Hospital Performance Report for Federal Fiscal Year 2003.

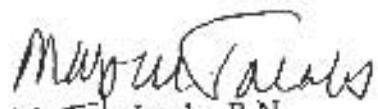
In the current report, UPMC St. Margaret was noted to have certain conditions & DRGs recognized as higher than expected for readmissions for any reason, as well as readmissions for complications or infection. While the hospital performance report produced by PHC4 analyzes specific data elements, we recognize the importance of reviewing the entire patient's hospitalization. At UPMC St. Margaret, 100% readmission review was performed on all readmissions for the stated time frame as part of our continuous monitoring of the quality of care.

In addition, we conduct focus reviews on specific DRGs or conditions noted to be statistically significant and provide this information to our Quality Committee as well as the medical staff for initiation of outcome and process improvement plans.

The report also indicates several conditions and DRGs that are significantly lower than expected in mortality and length of stay. We are committed to 100% mortality review, as well as extensive length of stay analysis, to ensure that appropriate resources, in the right setting, are provided to our patients, allowing for the best possible clinical outcomes.

UPMC St. Margaret supports the efforts of PHC4 to enhance the quality of patient care delivered in the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania.

Sincerely,


Marjorie Jacobs, R.N.
Director of Care/Quality Management