



**Ephrata
Community
Hospital**

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September 8, 2005

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

Dear Mr. Volavka:

Ephrata Community Hospital is supportive of the Pennsylvania Health Care Cost Containment Council's effort to provide quality and cost data to the public. We feel that educating our consumers with this information helps them to make informed decisions about their care.

Your most recent report notes a greater than average readmission rate for cases of Acute Respiratory Failure requiring mechanical ventilation. A close review of these six cases revealed several issues.

Two of the patients involved accounted for four of the cases reported. One was a 79 year old female with multiple medical co-morbidities which have resulted in multiple admissions for the same complaints. The other patient was a 65 year old male with multiple co-morbidities resulting in frequent hospital admissions. Both of these patients had far advanced diseases. Therefore traditional outpatient therapy was not successful, resulting in their frequent readmission.

One of the other cases was an 84 year old male treated successfully for respiratory failure whose return to the hospital was for an incarcerated inguinal hernia not associated with his previous diagnosis or history.

The last case involved a 66 year old male who was a transfer from another city who was treated successfully for his respiratory failure with mechanical ventilation and discharged but needed to be readmitted for the same diagnosis. He later needed a long term care facility after a tracheotomy with continued assisted ventilation.

We appreciate the opportunity to provide further clarification on the information provided in this report. Ephrata Community Hospital remains committed to providing each patient with a safe, quality experience while under our care.

Sincerely,

Vincent D. Glielmi, D.O.
Vice President for Medical Affairs