

**LEHIGH VALLEY**  
HOSPITAL AND  
HEALTH NETWORK

September 12, 2005

**VIA FACSIMILE – 717-232-7029**  
**CONFIRMATION WILL FOLLOW IN U.S. MAIL**

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

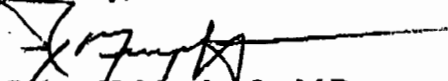
Dear Mr. Volavka:

We appreciate the opportunity to submit comments regarding the upcoming release of the 2004 Hospital Performance Report.

The performance report indicates that Lehigh Valley Hospital's mortality rating was greater than expected for Respiratory Failure without Mechanical Ventilation. After review of the 18 mortalities, we found that 16 patients requested "comfort measures only"; one patient requested no resuscitative efforts including intubation and life support; and one patient had multiple co-morbidities including end-stage renal disease and expired shortly after admission. As part of our ongoing peer review process, all mortalities are reviewed for appropriateness of care and quality issue.

We applaud the Council for its ongoing efforts to inform the public of performance outcomes on various common medical procedures and again thank you for the opportunity to comment on this report. Any questions please do not hesitate to contact me at 610-402-1770.

Sincerely,



Robert K. Murphy, Jr., M.D.  
Senior Vice President  
Quality and Care Management

