



Memorial Hospital

September 12, 2005

Marc P. Volavka
Executive Director
Pennsylvania Health Care Cost Containment Council
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Dear Mr. Volavka,

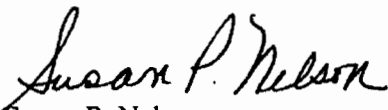
Thank you for the opportunity to comment on the 2004 Hospital Performance Report. We have completed a thorough review of the patient records and offer the following comments and clarifications concerning the report.

For the condition Kidney Failure, the expected number of mortalities was 4.8; the expected range of mortalities was 1-9. Thirteen of the fifteen mortalities requested "do not resuscitate" status with comorbid conditions present. Two of the expired patients had length of stay of one day and two expired patients had a length of stay of two days. The hospital risk-adjusted mortality rate of 26.1 compared to the statewide risk-adjusted mortality rate of 7.8 indicates the increased level of severity in these patients.

For the condition Aspiration Pneumonia, there were four readmissions for complications/infections within 30 days from previous admission. One patient had a readmission of an acute myocardial infarction 29 days following discharge for aspiration pneumonia. The expected range of readmissions was 0-3; the risk-adjusted readmission for complication/infection rate of 23.9 compared to the statewide risk-adjusted readmission rate for complication/infection rate of 7.4.

We value the intent of the annual report and look forward to working with the Council to continue to refine and clarify the report as we use the data for our ongoing performance improvement efforts.

Sincerely,


Susan P. Nelson
Quality Director

cc: Anthony Minissale, D.O., Vice President of Medical Affairs
Sally J. Dixon, President and CEO
David Geiger, D.O., President of Medical Staff

**Memorial Family
of Health Services**

- Memorial Hospital
- Greenbriar Medical Center
- HomeCare of York
- Industrial Resource Center
- MRI of York
- Memorial Primary Care
- Surgical Center of York
- Susquehanna Counseling
- White Rose Home Health
- White Rose Hospice