



# Moses Taylor Hospital

700 Quincy Avenue, Scranton, PA 18510-1798  
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September 13, 2005

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

Dear Mr. Volavka:

Regarding the Pennsylvania Health Care Cost Containment Council's (PHC4) recently published *Hospital Performance Report: Fall Update* on common medical procedures and treatments, Moses Taylor Hospital received higher than expected mortality ratings in three areas: Heart Attack – Medical Management, Septicemia, and Removal of Blockage of Neck Vessels.

The methodology used to evaluate outcomes for medical management of heart attack patients does not include the patients initially treated by our hospital and subsequently transferred to other acute care facilities. PHC4 acknowledges that this methodology does not account for the outcomes of these patients, therefore creating a bias against the hospital providing the initial treatment.

Regarding the categories of Septicemia and Removal of Blockage of Neck Vessels, these treatment groups encompass patients with multiple, pre-existing medical conditions. The classification of patients to these groups at times does not adequately reflect the treatment challenge these patients present.

Moses Taylor Hospital continually strives to provide quality care to these extremely ill patients. As part of this endeavor, we welcome the PHC4 data provided as another tool in our effort to continually improve the quality of care we deliver.

Sincerely,

Carmen A. Brutico, Jr., MD  
Chief Medical Officer  
Moses Taylor Hospital