



September 21, 2005

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

**RE: Hospital Performance Report
(October 1, 2003 through September 30, 2004)**

Dear Mr. Volavka,

Upon review of the data submitted for this period, I would like to reply on those cases involving a significantly higher mortality rating.

- **Heart Attacks – Medical Management:** 125 cases:
There were sixteen deaths. Nine patients were from a SNF; all sixteen patients had multiple co-morbidities, eleven with DNR orders. The average age of these patients was 81.8.
- **Pneumonia - Infectious:** 218 cases
There were sixteen deaths. Nine patients were from a SNF; all sixteen patients had multiple co-morbidities, thirteen with DNR orders, two care and comfort measures, and one hospice. The average age of these patients was 84.8.
- **Stroke – non Hemorrhagic:** 53 cases
There were five deaths from strokes. All came through the ER and presented with multiple co-morbid conditions. Three were DNR, two care and comfort, three came from SNF. The average age of these patients was 90.8.
- **Hip Fracture, Surgical Repair:** 39 cases
There were five deaths S/P surgical repair. Three cases were cardiac arrest, two cases were pneumonia S/P surgery. Three patients were from SNF. The average age of these patients was 90.

- ***DRG 183 – Stomach and Intestinal Infections and Disorders, Uncomplicated:***
There was one death. The 69 year-old patient came to the ER with a three-day history of constipation. Laxatives were taken the night before and BM was had in a.m. Then the abdominal pain began; nausea, no vomiting. KUB showed distended transverse colon, and stool in the sigmoid colon. WBC 14,000. Abdomen was soft throughout, positive bowel sounds. Patient was found to be apneic and pulseless; resuscitation was performed.

I hope the analysis of this report provides you with a better understanding of our patient climate in this rural area. At Shamokin Area Community Hospital, we pride ourselves in providing excellent care in the most efficient manner that we can.

Sincerely,



John P. Wiercinski, CHE
President and Chief Executive Officer