



Quality & Care Management  
Lehigh Valley Hospital  
Cedar Crest & 1-78  
Post Office Box 689  
Allentown, PA 18105-1536

Phone: 610-408-1770  
Fax: 610-402-8615

September 20, 2006

**Via Facsimile - 717-232-3821**  
**Confirmation will be sent by Federal Express**

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

Dear Mr. Volavka:

We appreciate the opportunity to be able to submit comments regarding the soon-to-be released 2005 Hospital Performance Report and applaud the Council for its ongoing efforts to inform the public of performance outcomes on these common medical procedures.

The performance report indicated that Lehigh Valley Hospital – Cedar Crest's readmission rate for complications/infection for DRG205 Liver Disease was greater than expected. Upon review of the cases, five patients had end-stage liver disease with recurring hepatic encephalopathy and one patient had pancreatic cancer with liver metastasis previously admitted to home with palliative care services.

Again, we thank you for the opportunity to comment on this report. Any questions please do not hesitate to contact me at 610-402-8656.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'A. Ardire, MD'.

Anthony Ardire MD, MPH, CPE  
Senior Vice President, Quality and Patient Safety