



## THE ELLWOOD CITY HOSPITAL

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Herbert S. Skuba  
President

September 21, 2006

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

Dear Mr. Volavka:

The Ellwood City Hospital had two DRG's that were cited for higher than expected mortality rates in the most recent release of Pennsylvania Health Care Cost Containment Council's Hospital Performance Report.

The first DRG with higher than expected mortality rate was Respiratory Failure without Mechanical Ventilation. There were a total of eight patients in this DRG, four of whom ceased to breathe. The average age of the four (CTB) patients was 85 years old. All four patients had multiple comorbid conditions and all four patients' advanced directives indicated they did not want CPR.

The second DRG with a higher than expected mortality rate was Stomach & Intestinal Complication & Disorder. There were a total of nineteen patients in this DRG, three of whom ceased to breathe. The average age of the three patients was again 85 years old. One patient (94 years old) was admitted for comfort measures only. The second patient was admitted unresponsive with an advance directive indicating no CPR. The third patient also had an advance directive indicating no CPR.

Sincerely,

Carolyn Izzo  
Chief Operating Officer