

September 21, 2004

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

Dear Mr. Volavka:

Thank you for the opportunity to review the hospital performance data from October 1, 2004 through September 30, 2005.

In two conditions/DRGs, Lancaster Regional Medical Center had a higher than expected short length of stay outlier.

Five of the 41 abdominal hysterectomy patients were identified as short length of stay outliers. These individuals presented with complex diagnoses but post-operatively did very well. All patients received appropriate care and were discharged when severity of illness / intensity of service was no longer met for continued acute care hospitalization.

The shorter lengths of stay for 3 of the 13 patients with cirrhosis and alcoholic hepatitis were appropriate and expected based on the individual cases. One patient refused to stay for treatment. One individual expired due to end stage disease. The treatment focus for the remaining patient was for CHF, which has a reduced intensity of service resulting in a shorter length of stay.

There was one condition with a higher than expected long length of stay outlier.

Nine of the 77 heart attack with angioplasty/stent patients were identified as having a higher than expected length of stay outlier. All nine cases were reviewed and care was appropriately provided. These particular patients had complex, multiple complications and co-morbidities. One individual's stay was prolonged due to a delay in placement to an extended care facility.

There was one condition that had a higher than expected readmission for complication or infection.

Two of the 7 patients who had abdominal aortic aneurysm repair were readmitted with complication or infection. One of those patients was admitted with an infection totally unrelated to the surgery. The second patient experienced a wound infection 2 weeks post-op.

We support PHC4 in its efforts to provide the consumer with quality information to assist in medical decision-making.

Sincerely,



Brad Nurkin
Chief Executive Officer