



Moses Taylor Hospital

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September 21, 2006

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 one area: Hypotension & Fainting, Complicated.

Hypotension & Fainting is a symptom, which does not reveal the underlying diagnosis leading to expiration. This treatment group encompasses patients presenting at the hospital with a simple symptom, while suffering with multiple, pre-existing medical conditions. The classification of patients in this group at times does not adequately reflect the treatment challenge our patients present.

In one particular case, unfortunately, the underlying diagnosis was severe coronary artery disease. The patient presented with multiple, complicated medical problems, including diabetes, hypertension, and renal problems, not reflected in the symptom of Hypotension & Fainting. There was a disparity between the initial symptom and the underlying conditions which lead to the patient's demise.

Moses Taylor Hospital continually reviews all patients in the hospital who expire and we strive to improve documentation to correlate patients' underlying conditions to the diagnosis. 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