UNIONTOWN HOSPITAL Getting better is what we're all about

Paul Bacharach President/CEO

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September 17, 2007

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

Dear Mr. Volavka:

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Uniontown Hospital would like to thank the Pennsylvania Health Care Cost Containment Council for the opportunity to comment on issues related to our data from October 1, 2005 through September 30, 2006 as follows:

Uniontown Hospital treated seventy-five patients with Aspiration Pneumonia. The predicted range of patients with a longer length of stay than expected was zero to six, and Uniontown Hospital had seven, one more than predicted. The mean age of these patients is 82.6 years with 57% in their 80's and 90's. The number of Aspiration Pneumonia patients expected to be readmitted within thirty-one days was nine to twenty-two, while the actual number of readmissions was twenty-three, one more than expected. Patients with aspiration Pneumonia are often debilitated with several chronic problems that often result in multiple admissions. Often times feeding tubes are warranted for these patients but families disagree and continue to give their loved ones oral feedings that they cannot properly swallow. Three of the twenty-three readmitted patients were readmitted for problems totally unrelated to the Aspiration Pneumonia.

Uniontown Hospital treated 326 patients with Infectious Pneumonia. The predicted range of patients with a longer length of stay than expected was eight to twenty-two and Uniontown Hospital had twenty-five, three more than predicted. These twenty-five patients were handled by sixteen different physicians. The mean age of these patients was 73.3 years with 40% of the patients in their 80's and 90's.

Uniontown Hospital treated eight patients with Hemorrhagic Stroke. The predicted range of patients with a shorter length of stay than expected was zero to one and Uniontown Hospital had two, one more than expected. Both of the patients were transferred back to the nursing homes where they reside with comfort measures only at the request of the families.

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Uniontown Hospital treated 110 patients with DRG 141 – Hypotension and Fainting, Complicated. The predicted range of patients with a longer length of stay than expected was one to nine and Uniontown Hospital had ten, one more than predicted. The average age for these patients was 81.3 years with 80% in their 80's and 90's

The patients in all of the above categories had several co-morbid or end stage conditions such as coronary artery disease, congestive heart failure, chronic obstructive pulmonary disease, diabetes mellitus, cancer and renal failure. Due to their numerous co-morbidities, further evaluation is often necessary and the patient's response to intervention is sometimes slower than expected.

The care of patients with pneumonia is an integral part of our Quality Improvement Process and patients with a length of stay other than expected are reviewed by Patient Care Management and the Utilization Committee. It is the intent of Uniontown Hospital to provide high quality of health care and to improve the health status of the people we serve, keeping consistent with our goal of clinical and service quality excellence.

Sincerely,

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Paul Bacharach President/CEO