

 **Abington Memorial Hospital**

1200 Old York Road, Abington, PA 19001-3788

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David H. Wilderman
Acting Executive Director
Pennsylvania Health Care Cost Containment Council
225 Market Street
Suite 400
Harrisburg, PA 17101

Dear Mr. Wilderman,

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on the Annual Hospital Performance Report. There were three diagnoses in which having Abington Memorial Hospital had a higher than expected readmission rate. These diagnoses included Stroke-hemorrhagic, Hip fracture-surgical repair, and Surgery for infectious or parasitic disease.

We reviewed the readmission diagnoses for these patients and note that the most common reason for readmission was infection, such as pneumonia. It was uncommon for the patient, who had surgery to be readmitted for infection of the surgical site. The average age of these patients was over 80, and the majority of these patients were discharged to a nursing home setting. We believe that our higher than expected readmission rate is related to the fact that many of these patients developed infections requiring re-hospitalization while in the nursing home.

Abington Memorial Hospital has instituted very successful infection control projects in areas such as increasing handwashing compliance, reducing the number of ventilator associated pneumonia, and reducing the incidence of central line infections. We have become extremely vigilant and proactive in screening for MRSA in patients admitted from a nursing home setting. We believe that all of our infection control efforts will ultimately result in a reduction of readmission for infection.

Sincerely,



John Kelly, M.D., FACP
JJK/fmp