



1800 Mulberry Street
Scranton, Pennsylvania 18510
570 969-8000

September 17, 2008

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

Dear Mr. Wilderman:

Community Medical Center would like to thank you for the opportunity to review and comment on the Pennsylvania Health Care Cost Containment Council's PHC4 data on discharges from October 2006 through September 2007. We support the work of the Council and utilize this information along with other sources to improve quality and service to our patients.

The results, as outlined in the Performance Report, indicate Community Medical Center's performance meets or exceeds the standards when compared to other facilities. We do however wish to comment on two areas identified as having a longer than expected LOS.

- Congestive Heart Failure, (CHF)
- Infectious Pneumonia

It was determined upon review that in the majority of these cases a longer LOS was due to age, co-morbid conditions, high severity, or awaiting placement in nursing facilities or transitional care.

Please note we have implemented a disease management program for CHF, and are currently doing the same with Pneumonia. Our goals are to address the continuum of care and provide increased educational opportunities to promote best patient outcomes.

We thank you for the opportunity to comment on our hospital's performance data.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'John Nilsson', written over a horizontal line.

John Nilsson
President and CEO