



NORTH PHILADELPHIA  
HEALTH SYSTEM  
*We care for the community.*



September 15, 2009

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

Dear Mr. Wilderman,

In response to the data in PHC4 Report for St. Joseph's Hospital where the mortality for Septicemia and Pneumonia were significantly higher than expected, we have found the following data to apply:

SEPTICEMIA – Year 2008

119 cases were discharged from St. Joseph's Hospital with a diagnosis of Septicemia and 28 cases expired. Of those 28 cases, 18 cases, or 66%, were admitted with a diagnosis of Septicemia and additional co-morbidities. 4 cases, or 14% of the patients, experienced cardiac arrest while in route to the hospital and expired within 24 hours.

ASPIRATION PNEUMONIA

28 cases were discharged from St. Joseph's Hospital with a diagnosis of Aspiration Pneumonia. Of the 28 cases, there were 6 deaths. Of the 6 deaths, 4 patients came from area Nursing Homes with an admitting diagnosis of Aspiration Pneumonia. 3 of these patients had additional co-morbidities and 1 patient presented unresponsive to the hospital. One patient came from home unresponsive.

INFECTIOUS PNEUMONIA

70 cases were discharged from St. Joseph's Hospital with a diagnosis of Infectious Pneumonia. Of the 70 cases, there were 4 deaths. Of the 4 deaths, 3 patients were admitted from area Nursing Homes with a diagnosis of Pneumonia and 2 of the patients had additional co-morbidities.

Sincerely,

Catherine E. Kutzler, MSHA  
Senior Vice President, CEO

CEK/dp