

December 10, 2012

Joseph Martin
Executive Director
Pennsylvania Health Cost Containment Council
225 Market Street, Suite 400
Harrisburg, PA 17101

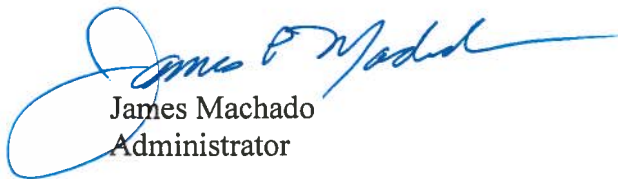
Dear Mr. Martin:

Thank you for the opportunity to review the hospital performance data for the time period of January 1, 2011 through December 31, 2011.

In one of the conditions studied, Aspiration Pneumonia, the mortality rate was higher than expected. The records and associated case mix index have been reviewed and revealed an elderly population with complex conditions and co-morbidities that complicated the patients' hospital course and outcome. The records indicated that the patients involved were admitted with the condition and were Do Not Resuscitate (DNR) patients who requested comfort measures only. Four of the patients were admitted from extended care facilities, one from an assisted living center, one from hospice care, and one directly from home. Three of the cases involved patients with a length of stay of one day. No quality of care concerns were identified in any of the cases.

We support PHC4 in its efforts to provide the consumer with quality information to assist in medical decision-making.

Sincerely,



James Machado
Administrator