

December 7, 2012

Mr. Joseph Martin,
Executive Director
PA Health Care Cost Containment Council
225 Market Street
Suite 400
Harrisburg, Pa 17101

Dear Mr. Martin:

The Penn State Milton S. Hershey Medical Center has received and reviewed the results of the PHC4 Hospital Performance Report for 2011. We appreciate the opportunity to comment.

In retrospective review of the four patients included in the category, "Mortality – Chronic Obstructive Pulmonary Disease (COPD)," our findings indicated two system issues. Of our four patients submitted in this population, only two patients actually died. One patient was reported twice, and her ultimate death in hospice care should not have been submitted per PHC4 guidelines.

Thus, the correct number of patient in the COPD mortality category is 2, which falls into the 0-3 expected range. These findings have provided us with an opportunity to resolve these system issues.

Again, thank you for your commitment to transparency and accuracy in health care quality, thus giving us the chance to clarify the results.

Sincerely,



Gregory M. Caputo, MD
Chief Quality Officer
Penn State Hershey Medical Center