



THE ELLWOOD CITY HOSPITAL

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November 24, 2015

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

Dear Mr. Martin,

Thank you for the opportunity to respond to this year's report.

We find value in the data presented to us by the Health Care Cost Containment Council. We utilize the data to recognize our staff for their dedication to providing outstanding care and also to help direct our focus on specific target areas that we would like to improve upon.

Upon reviewing the data from this year's report, we were higher than expected in two categories, CHF Mortalities and MI Mortalities. This prompted us to go back and review our data to ensure that our numbers were congruent with those being displayed in the report. We found that there was an error in how we pulled the information that was sent to you. This error was related to patient's being admitted or transferred to Inpatient Hospice. We found that 5 out of the 7 CHF mortalities reported should have been excluded because they were Inpatient Hospice and should not have been submitted under the regular 03 Inpatient Code. The same is true for 1 of the 4 MI Mortalities. We also discovered that the other 3 MI Mortalities all had DNR code statuses.

Lastly, while we were not an outlier for CHF readmissions, during our review of data for the Mortalities we discovered that that 1 of the 13 reported CHF Readmissions also was incorrectly pulled as a regular 03 Inpatient when the patient actually was transferred to Inpatient Hospice.

We recognize the importance of pulling and submitting correct data to the Health Care Cost Containment Council and apologize for these inadvertent errors in submission. We are committed to providing cost-effective, quality health care to our patients and providing accurate information to reporting agencies. We are in the process of resolving the programming issue and should not experience this problem again.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Beverly". The signature is written in a cursive style and is positioned above the printed name and title.

Beverly Annarumo, RN MSN
Chief Quality Officer, Ellwood City Hospital