



Quality and Patient Safety  
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Joseph Martin  
Executive Director  
Pennsylvania Health Care Cost Containment Council  
225 Market Street  
Suite 400  
Harrisburg, PA 17101

Dear Mr. Martin:

We appreciate the opportunity to be able to submit comments regarding the CY2014 Hospital Performance Report and applaud the Council for its ongoing efforts to inform the public of performance outcomes on the code-based conditions/procedures.

At Lehigh Valley Health Network we are pleased to serve as a tertiary referral center for the most critically ill patients in our region. As one of the largest trauma and critical care centers in the state, we routinely accept high-risk, complex patients transferred from the other hospitals listed in this report. Lehigh Valley Health Network supports the efforts by the Pennsylvania Health Care Cost Containment Council and we will use the results of this report to continue to improve the specialized care we provide for these most critically ill patients.

The performance report indicated that Lehigh Valley Hospital had a higher than expected mortality rate for Colorectal Procedures. All mortality cases are reviewed to identify opportunities for improvement in the care that is provided.

The performance report also indicated that Lehigh Valley Hospital had a higher than expected readmission rate for any reason for Congestive Heart Failure (CHF). We have worked to improve readmission rates for all patients but have especially strived to meet the needs of our CHF patients. Review of the reasons for readmission, access to care, transition of care and the impact of renal and diabetic disease on this population have focused our efforts. Community Care Teams were developed to provide specialized care and additional support to this chronically ill, high risk population. Access to cardiologists has been improved and the addition of Epic, one medical record, will improve transition of care from hospital to home.

Again, we thank you for the opportunity to comment on this report. Any questions please do not hesitate to contact me at 610-402-9465.

Sincerely,  
*Marlene Ritter*  
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Director Quality  
Lehigh Valley Health Network