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

September 22, 2017

Dear Mr. Martin,

Mount Nittany Medical Center has received and reviewed the results of the Hospital Performance Report for 2016. We appreciate the opportunity to comment.

We at Mount Nittany Medical Center support and utilize comparative reports to identify opportunities for improvement. Continuous analysis of comparative data is included in our internal performance improvement process through participation in The Joint Commission, and Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) reporting.

The following comments are offered on the two conditions with mortality rates greater than expected. The age range of our Stroke population outliers was 76- 102 years of age (average age 89.75 years) with multiple hemorrhagic strokes included in that population. 90% of the stroke mortalities were of Do Not Resuscitate (DNR) status and/or comfort care upon admission. The age range of the Abnormal Heartbeat population was 85- 96 years, with the exception of one patient less than 50 years, but with multiple co-morbid conditions. The average age for our Abnormal Heartbeat population was 78.25 years. All patient mortalities are reviewed on an individual bases to evaluate clinical care rendered, and due to severity of illness of these patients, we believe these deaths were anticipated.

Mount Nittany Medical Center is currently participating in multiple collaborations and utilizes evidence-based guidelines to facilitate improved clinical outcomes of our patients. We regularly evaluate clinical care based on evidence-based performance measure and provide feedback to our medical staff.

Thank you for your commitment to transparency and accuracy in health care quality and for the opportunity to comment on this report.

Sincerely,

Courtney Maholtz RN, CPHQ

Courtney Maholtz, RN, CPHQ
Director of Quality and Interim Patient Safety Officer, Mount Nittany Medical Center