

Evangelical Community Hospital

ONE HOSPITAL DRIVE, LEWISBURG, PENNSYLVANIA 17837
(570) 522-2000 FAX: (570) 522-2745

November 23, 1999

Mark P. Volavka, Executive Director
Pennsylvania Health Care Cost Containment Council
225 Market Street, Suite 400
Harrisburg, PA 17101

Dear Mr. Volavka:

Thank you for the opportunity to participate and comment on the **1998 Hospital Performance Report**. Evangelical Community Hospital's primary purpose is to assure community access to health care that is high in quality, compassionate and reasonably priced.

The higher than expected mortality rate for patients in DRG 014, Stroke, is reflective of the high severity of illness of that patient population at the time of their admission to Evangelical Community Hospital. The majority of the patients who expired had an admission severity score of 3 or greater accompanied by such co-morbidities as acute respiratory failure, aspiration pneumonia, cancer, congestive heart failure, atrial fibrillation, chronic obstructive pulmonary disease and insulin dependent diabetes mellitus. Forty percent of the patients had a previous cerebrovascular accident. Further evaluation revealed that sixty percent of the patients who expired had do-not-resuscitate orders written at the time of their admission and eighty percent were on do-not-resuscitate status by the time of their death. Over fifty percent of the patients had highly significant probability of death scores as determined by the Atlas system.

Thank you again for the opportunity to comment on this data. Statistical review combined with our internal peer review process allows us to gain a much more accurate picture of the care provided.

Sincerely,



William G. Reish, M.D.
Vice President/Medical Affairs