

Hahnemann
University Hospital

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November 30, 1999

Marc P. Volavka, Executive Director
PA Health Care Cost Containment Council
225 Market Street, Suite 400
Harrisburg, PA 17101
Fax (717) 232-3821

Re: Comments on the 1998 Hospital Performance Report

Dear Mr. Volavka:

We feel it is imperative to document our exception to publication of this data as information for Hahnemann University Hospital, a Tenet HealthSystem facility. 45 of the 52 weeks of material represent Allegheny University Hospitals, Hahnemann information. The statistics would be more accurately reflected as AUH-Hahnemann data since AHERF was the governing body until November 10, 1998.

An important example of this time line is reflected in the reporting of DRG 478 and DRG 110. The Performance Report will record our Risk-Adjusted Mortality Ratings as significantly greater than expected. When we scrutinized these DRGs, we learned that all 15 deaths under DRG 478 occurred prior to November 10, 1998, and 33 of the 35 deaths under DRG 110 also occurred prior to November 10, 1998. Segregation of the data by ownership of the institution would clearly reflect that Hahnemann University Hospital did not have a Risk-Adjusted Mortality Rating greater than expected.

We appreciate the opportunity to publish our comments. Hahnemann University Hospital supports the goal of providing valid, accurate and timely data to support the Council's efforts to furnish objective information regarding cost and quality of care.

Sincerely,



Michael P. Halter
Chief Executive Officer

