

# Nazareth Hospital

November 29, 1999

Mr. Marc P. Volavka  
Executive Director  
Pennsylvania Health Care Cost Containment Council  
225 Market Street, Suite 400  
Harrisburg, Pa. 17101

Dear Mr. Volavka:

On behalf of Nazareth Hospital, our patients, employees and physicians, thank you for the opportunity to comment on our 1998 Hospital Performance Report. Nazareth Hospital's risk-adjusted mortality rating was not different than expected in all medical categories except DRG 110.

In this category, there were seven (7) actual deaths. Six (6) of these patients presented to our Emergency Department with the diagnosis ruptured abdominal aortic aneurysm confirmed by emergency CT scan. Greater than fifty (50) % of all people with a ruptured abdominal aortic aneurysm do not survive. In four (4) patients, the aneurysm was greater than 7.0 cms. (9.9cms., 9.0cms., 8.3cms. and 7.1cms.) which increases the risk of death to 74-90 %. Three (3) patients had severity score 4 with probabilities of death .807, .772 and .688 respectively. Two (2) patients were eighty-four (84) years of age.

Finally, our p-value in this category was .0496 which represents five-ten thousandths (.0005) difference from being categorized as mortality rate not different than expected.

If we can be of further assistance to you regarding this data set, please feel free to contact us.

Sincerely,



Robert Lantieri, M.D.  
Vice-President, Medical Affairs

RL:vb