

Hospital of the University of Pennsylvania
Administration

Senior Medical Director

December 1, 1999

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

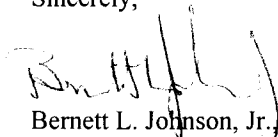
Dear Mr. Volavka:

We have reviewed the data that will be published in the upcoming Hospital Effectiveness Performance Report and would like to comment on the results of DRG 416, Adult Septicemia. The 1998 report indicates the mortality rate for this DRG is significantly higher than expected with a p-value of 0.0063. A careful review of these cases has provided us with some insight into the care and condition of these patients. Many of the patients who expired were either transferred to us from an outside institutions or brought to the Emergency Department by Fire Rescue with pre-existing bacteremic or septic conditions. In addition most patients had malignant comorbid conditions with a "Do Not Resuscitate" order at the time of their death

We have, therefore, concluded the mortality statistic reported for these cases does not indicate substandard quality of care.

Please include these comments with the release of the 1998 Hospital Performance Report.

Sincerely,



Bernett L. Johnson, Jr., M.D.
Senior Medical Director

HUP

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