



ST.
FRANCIS
HEALTH
SYSTEM

ST. FRANCIS MEDICAL CENTER

400 - 45th Street
Pittsburgh, PA 15201-1198
412/622-4343

November 29, 1999

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

Dear Mr. Volavka:

Members of the St. Francis Medical Center Administration thank you for affording us the opportunity to comment on the information contained in the 1998 Hospital Performance Report. St. Francis Medical Center is being reported as having a higher than expected mortality rate in DRG 416 -- Adult Septicemia.

Upon completion of an exhaustive case analysis, it was concluded that all of the patients were admitted to St. Francis Medical Center with multiple, severe medical problems. All were chronically ill and in the advanced stages of septicemia. The vast majority had advanced directives, with orders not to resuscitate. We feel that appropriate care was given in each circumstance in accordance with our patients' wishes.

Sincerely,

Sister Donna Zwigart
Sister Donna Zwigart, FACHE
Chief Executive Officer
St. Francis Medical Center

Healing body, mind and spirit

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