



November 19, 1999

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

Dear Mr. Volavka:

Bradford Regional Medical Center continues to support the efforts of the Pennsylvania Health Care Cost Containment Council in the collection and dissemination of data related to outcomes and cost for the fifteen most common medical procedures and treatments. While we encourage efforts to improve quality and service for the citizens of the Commonwealth, we believe such data as mortality ratings must always be analyzed further on a case by case basis to reflect the patient's history, complications and requests for DNR. We feel that evaluation of the effectiveness of medical management is accomplished through peer review. Statistical data alone cannot explain a complete assignment of the effectiveness of medical management.

As part of our internal quality improvement efforts, appropriate members of the BRMC clinical and medical staff review similar outcome data on a regular basis. BRMC has reviewed mortality data for DRG 089, Adult Pneumonia, since the Hospital Effectiveness Report identified our mortality rate for this DRG to be significantly greater than expected.

Review of the nineteen (19) mortalities out of 143 pneumonia cases noted the following:

- ▶ Average Admission Severity Group 3.0 (increased probability of death) compared with the statewide average of 2.2 and the BRMC average of 2.4
- ▶ Average patient age 82 years
- ▶ Ten out of nineteen patients were "Do Not Resuscitate"
- ▶ The patients had significant underlying co-morbid conditions contributing to death.

Thank you for allowing our facility the opportunity to comment on the findings.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "G. E. Leonhardt".

George E. Leonhardt
President/CEO

GEL/sje