

BUTLER HEALTH SYSTEM

911 EAST BRADY STREET
BUTLER | PENNSYLVANIA
16001-4697

724 | 283-6666
1-800 | 654-5988 (voice)
1-800 | 654-5984 (TDD)

November 30, 1999



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

Dear Mr. Volavka:

Butler Health System is pleased to have the opportunity to comment on the Pennsylvania Health Care Cost Containment Council's 1998 Hospital Performance Report.

Overall, we note that the outcomes of your analysis demonstrates that Butler Health System's mortality rate for all 15 DRG's was well within the expected range for our organization. In addition, our charges again continue to be consistently lower than our comparative region and notably statewide for these DRG's.

As a community provider striving to continue to perform service excellence, several new strategic initiatives, in the form of practice protocols, have been developed at Butler Memorial Hospital. Some of these protocols include acute coronary syndrome and care for the CVA patients. Not only are these protocols and others intended to compliment the care provided to our patients in our heart and stroke centers, but to also assist in streamlining care, improving overall performance and cost efficiency for those patients receiving care at our organization.

In conclusion, the Butler Health System supports the efforts of the Pennsylvania Health Care Cost Containment Council and your desire to educate healthcare consumers.

I wish to thank you for the opportunity to share our comments.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads 'Medrice Coluccio'.

Medrice Coluccio, RN, MN
Chief Operating Officer

MC.dlc