

NASON HOSPITAL
105 Nason Drive
Roaring Spring, PA 16673
(814) 224-2141

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

Dear Mr. Volavka:

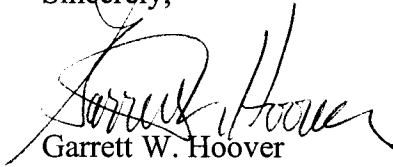
We have reviewed the 1998 Hospital Performance Report - 15 Common Medical Procedures and Treatments. The statistics demonstrate that Nason Hospital has good outcomes with mortality, length of stay and charges at or below that experienced elsewhere in the state for the majority of the reported DRGs.

DRG 148, Major Intestinal Procedures, was reported as having a higher than expected mortality rate. We treated 25 patients in this DRG, with six patients who expired. Review of these six cases showed the following:

- Four of six had malignant cancer of the bowel
- All six were on a do-not-resuscitate status
- All six had one or more pre-existing conditions (heart failure, lung disease, renal disease, coronary artery disease)
- Five of six were 80 years or older

We appreciate the opportunity to provide these comments regarding the performance report. It is important that timely and meaningful comparative information be available to health care consumers in order for them to make informed decisions.

Sincerely,



Garrett W. Hoover
President