



November 24, 1999

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

Dear Marc,

The following is for inclusion in the Hospital Comments Booklet:

In reviewing the Hospital Performance Report, the data suggests that the risk-adjusted mortality rating for DRG 082, Lung Cancer, is significantly greater than expected when compared with data for Western Pennsylvania and Statewide facilities. Windber Medical Center houses the only inpatient Hospice facility in a five-county region. The higher than expected mortality should be attributed to this factor.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads 'Diane Pungle'.

Principal Partner / Patient Care Review

600 Somerset Avenue
Windber, PA 15963
814-467-6611

A Member of the Conemaugh Health System