



Sacred Heart Hospital

Affiliated with Sacred Heart HealthCare System

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May 21, 2015

Joe Martin, Executive Director
PA Health Care Cost Containment Council
225 Market Street, Suite 400
Harrisburg, PA 17101

Dear Mr. Martin.

Thank you for the opportunity to respond to the 'Readmissions for the Same Condition Report' which includes discharges from January 1, 2013 thru August 31, 2014.

This report shows that we were higher than expected for readmissions for Congestive Heart Failure (CHF).

All identified cases were reviewed. There were a total of 24 readmissions compared to the expected readmissions of 9 – 23 for the same timeframe.

We would like to take the opportunity to denote the following:

- 1) Four (4) readmissions were attributed to the same patient who had a documented history of non-compliance and leaving against medical advice.
- 2) Seven (7) of the readmissions were not able to reviewed as the patients did not return to our Hospital.
- 3) Post-discharge patient non-compliance to the prescribed treatment plan attributed to many of the listed readmissions.

Our discharge process includes discharge phone calls within 48 hours of discharge, scheduling of post-discharge follow-up PCP and specialist appointments as well as participation in our 6 week disease management program (if the patient agrees to participation).

Thank you again for providing this information to us.

We remain committed to providing cost-effective quality healthcare to our patients.

Sincerely,

Farrokh S. Sadr MD
VP, Medical Affairs