

**ALLEGHENY
GENERAL HOSPITAL**

WEST PENN ALLEGHENY HEALTH SYSTEM

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CONNIE M. CIBRONE*President and Chief Executive Officer*

December 10, 2002

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

Dear Mr. Volavka:

Allegheny General Hospital would like to thank the Pennsylvania Health Care Cost Containment Council for the invitation to review and comment on certain issues relating to our 2001 Data. We appreciate the opportunity to access hospital effectiveness benchmarks which address the care delivery systems within our institution.

Through our continuous efforts to enhance performance improvement initiatives, we utilize this information in conjunction with additional data to monitor the quality of our patient care. In the current report, the Stroke/Non-hemorrhagic category had a mortality rate significantly greater than expected. In concordance with and respect for the families'/patients' wishes, 76% of the deaths had "Do Not Resuscitate" orders (DNR), which reflected the catastrophic nature of the events.

In the current report, DRG 1 (craniotomy >17 years of age, non trauma) had a mortality rate significantly greater than expected. 52% of these patients had aneurysms (70% with an ASG of 3 or 4) with repair/ventriculostomy procedures, many of whom had severe vasospasm and/or poor prognosis. 52% of these patients were a DNR or the family wished to withdraw support due to the poor prognosis. 27% of the mortalities in DRG 1 were patients with intracerebral hemorrhages, all having an ASG of 3 or 4.

In summary, we appreciate the efforts of the Pennsylvania Health Care Cost Containment Council in taking a lead role in comparing hospital performance and we will continue to strive toward improving the quality of patient care at Allegheny General Hospital.

Sincerely,

Connie Cibrone
President & CEO