



Clarion Hospital

December 4, 2002

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

Dear Mr. Volavka:

Clarion Hospital would like to thank the Pennsylvania Health Care Cost Containment Council for the invitation to comment and clarify issues related to our 2001 data. The report indicated Clarion Hospital had a mortality rate higher than expected for the condition of gallbladder removal – open.

The case has been reviewed and it was determined that the patient was considered high risk according to the American Society of Anesthesiologists criteria and the medical care had been appropriately provided. The outcome was not unexpected given the clinical presentation and co-morbidities of the patient.

Clarion Hospital supports the efforts of the Health Care Cost Containment Council in providing quality patient care and promoting positive patient outcomes.

Respectfully Submitted,

Candis L. Kles, RN
Chief Nursing Officer