

The
Good
Samaritan
Hospital **GSH**

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December 6, 2002

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

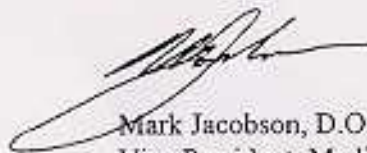
Dear Mr. Volavka,

As always, The Good Samaritan Hospital supports Pennsylvania Health Care Cost Containment Council's continued efforts to disclose information that promotes discussion and dialog. We thank you for the opportunity to comment upon the 2001 Hospital Performance Report.

The Good Samaritan Hospital is pleased with the overall results of the latest report. We feel that this is a reflection of our commitment to the delivery of quality, cost-effective patient care.

Although we had five cases exceed the Long Length of Stay Outlier threshold for DRG 294 (Diabetes), a clinical review of these cases confirmed our delivery of quality patient care services. Additionally, our lower readmission rate, charges and mortality data support this conclusion. As noted this past November in Pennsylvania Health Care Cost Containment Council's Diabetic Hospitalization Report 2001 Data, management of diabetes continues to present challenges for patients, physicians, hospitals and other providers. Emphasis on education and prevention is key to successfully addressing this often debilitating condition.

Sincerely,



Mark Jacobson, D.O.
Vice President, Medical Affairs