



December 9, 2002

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

Dear Mr. Volavka:

Below please find Good Samaritan Regional Medical Center's comments regarding the PHC4's Hospital Performance Report (2001 data):

Five patients in DRG 203 expired during hospitalization. All five patients were in the terminal state of their illness and were treated only with supportive measures at the patients' request. They did not wish treatment of their malignancy. One patient was 91 years old with significant cardiac diseases as well as malignancy.

Thank you for your attention to this matter.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Thomas W. McLaughlin", written over a light blue horizontal line.

Thomas W. McLaughlin, M.D.
Chief Medical Officer

TWM/ckr

cc: Gino Pazzaglini, FACHE
Daniel Eppley, FACHE
Darnell Furer
Patricia Baldwin
David Schneck
Kelly Kalk