



December 9, 2002

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

Dear Mr. Volavka,

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on Jeanes Hospital's outcome data that will appear in the 2001 Hospital Performance Report. Our mortality rating of "higher than expected" for medical management of heart attack patients can be satisfactorily explained with the following comments:

- Our affiliation with Temple University Hospital gives Jeanes Hospital patients access to tertiary cardiac services. Stable patients who are candidates for acute cardiac catheterization and other aggressive treatment options are quickly transferred. The sicker, less stable patients remain at Jeanes because of their inability to withstand aggressive treatments. This is evidenced by an average severity score of 2.95 for 22 heart attack patients who expired at Jeanes Hospital, compared to an average severity score of only 1.76 for the 114 heart attack patients who were transferred. Also, 81.8% of the 22 patients who stayed at Jeanes Hospital had a severity score of 3 or higher, and an average age of 84.8 years.
- Jeanes Hospital had a total of 191 heart attack patients, but only 75 cases were treated at Jeanes Hospital. That 59.7% transfer rate of the most stable heart attack patients affects our mortality rate by leaving a smaller number of sicker patients at Jeanes Hospital for treatment.
- 68.2% of the heart attack patients who stayed at Jeanes Hospital had Do Not Resuscitate orders.
- Eight of the patients who expired at Jeanes Hospital had previous myocardial infarction and all 22 of the patients had extensive comorbidities that contributed to their compromised conditions.

Again, we thank you for the opportunity address this issue.

Very Truly Yours,

Susan Croushore
Executive Director / CEO