



**JEANNETTE DISTRICT  
MEMORIAL HOSPITAL**

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

Dear Mr. Volavka,

Jeannette District Memorial Hospital appreciates the ongoing efforts of the Council in making outcomes data available to the health care providers and the public. Our clinicians use this tool and other data to evaluate performance and welcomes the opportunity to comment on the 2001 Hospital Performance Report.

After review of the data, although favorable, we would like to comment on the new length of stay outlier rate and rating used in this report, specifically on DRG 082 Lung Cancer. While a high percentage of short stays may reflect limitations imposed by payors, unnecessary admissions, inadequate social support or patient education; it may reflect quite the opposite. Due to the small volume, 21 cases in this DRG, a few cases can statistically change the outcome rating. Of the 7 cases recognized as rating significantly higher than expected percentage of short stays outliers:

- Three cases were end stage Carcinomas patients requesting no aggressive but palliative measures and discharge.
- Two other cases represented the same patient who chose aggressive symptomatic interventions and was treated accordingly.
- The other two cases were newly diagnosed carcinomas that were best served and amenable to outpatient disease staging.

Patient Education, Palliative Care, and Hospice interventions are highly valued services afforded our Cancer patients at Jeannette District Memorial Hospital.

Thank you for the opportunity to offer our comments. Often a statistical analysis, however accurate does not represent the subtleties that influence patient outcomes.

Sincerely yours,



Barry H. Roth  
President & CEO