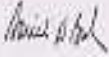




To: Marc P. Volavka
Executive Director,
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225 Market Street, Suite 400
Harrisburg, PA 17101

From: Daniel Brooks, MD 
Vice President, Chief Medical Officer
The Medical Center, Beaver

Date: December 6, 2002

Subject: Comments from The Medical Center, Beaver, PA on 2001 PHC4 Hospital Performance Report

Please include these comments with the release of the 2001 Hospital Performance Report regarding the Medical Center, DRG 127 *Heart Failure and Shock* and DRG 130 *Vascular Disorders except Heart, Complicated Mortality Cases*.

There were 660 cases in DRG 127 with an improved mortality rate in 2001 of 5.8% compared to the previous years actual rate of 6.4%. There were 69 cases in the DRG 130 with 5 mortalities (7.6%). All mortality cases are carefully monitored throughout the year against expected severity adjusted rates used by PHC-4. The PHC-4 report allows us to conduct a second detailed investigation of these cases. Our further investigation revealed:

- *Do Not Resuscitate (DNR) orders on admission* were requested by the patient's families in 18 (47 %) of the cases in DRG 127 and 3 (60%) of the cases in DRG 130.
- *The Length of Stay (LOS)* for 11 of the 38 DRG 127 mortality cases was 24 hours or less and for 1 of the 5 DRG 130 mortality cases.
- *Skilled Nursing /Residential Facility was the admission source* for 17 (45%) of the 38 DRG 127 cases.
- *Age of the Mortality cases was greater than the general populace* in DRG 127; 68% were 75 years of age or old with 11 of those being over 85 years of age.
- *Multiple diagnoses were present complicating these cases*. As an example, *Renal Failure and or Diabetes* was a complicating secondary diagnosis on 24 (63 %) of the patients. *Metastatic Cancer as a secondary diagnosis* was also present on 9 of the 38 mortality cases in DRG 127 (24%).
- *The severity of the disease progression in DRG 127 Heart Failure patients* was evidenced by their secondary diagnosis of *Chronic Ischemic Heart Disease* on 10 (26 %) of the cases and in , DRG 130, 2 of the 5 cases had *Ruptured Abdominal Aortic Aneurysms* on admission.

Conclusions: The Medical Center, 2001, DRG 127 and 130 Mortality Rates are significantly affected by the increasing age and medical complexity of the patients we serve. The care provided was appropriate and no performance improvement opportunities were identified. These rates may be affected by the fact The Medical Center serves as the primary acute care admission site for several local Nursing homes and for the Beaver County Geriatric Center. We support an aggressive multidisciplinary Clinical Outcome Improvement program and DRG 127 is one of our ongoing focuses. We will continue to trend the findings and share this information with our Medical Staff.