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Michael R. Weitekamp, M.D., M.H.A.
Chief Medical Officer

December 10, 2002

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

Dear Mr. Volavka:

As Chief Medical Officer of the Penn State Milton S. Hershey Medical Center I have oversight responsibility for our medical professionals and the quality and continuous improvement of medical care delivered at our institution. Each year we dutifully review the "Hospital Performance Report" published by your organization and look for opportunities within this data to improve performance.

Please accept the following comment regarding data in your report

Within DRG 098 – The only patient death was a two year old with severe preexisting neurologic impairment who was unimmunized and developed pertussis syndrome and respiratory compromise. At the family's request, he received only comfort measures for his respiratory compromise and succumbed to his illness.

Thanks very much for the opportunity to share our comments.

Sincerely,

Michael R. Weitekamp, M.D., M.H.A.

MRW:kjc

cc: A. Craig Hillemeier, M.D.
Steven E. Lucking, M.D.
Darrell G. Kirch, M.D.
Anthony J. Ardire, M.D.
Carol Houlihan, RHIA
James Bifano