



NORTH PHILADELPHIA
HEALTH SYSTEM

We care for the community.



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,

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on the 2002 Hospital Performance Report.

We have reviewed the fourteen (14) cases reported under DRG 217 in which two (2) patients expired. In both cases, patients presented from long term care facilities with multiple co-morbidities. One (1) patient presented with gangrene of the left foot and sepsis. The other patient was on a ventilator with end stage renal failure and sepsis. After careful review, we concluded that the cause of death in both cases was not related to the procedures of wound debridement or skin grafts, but to the co-morbidities.

St. Joseph's Hospital will continue to strive toward providing quality care to our community. In the future we will evaluate all cases under DRG 217 through our Performance Improvement process.

Sincerely,

Catherine E. Kutzler
Administrator/CEO

CEK/dp