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Hospital

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December 5, 2002

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

Dear Mr. Volavka,

Thank you for the opportunity to respond to the Pennsylvania Health Care Cost Containment Council 2001 Performance report.

It is noted that Temple East, Inc. - Northeastern Hospital has a higher than expected mortality rate in the category of Non-Hemorrhagic Stroke. Of the patients who expired in that category, 71% or 10 of 14 patients had Do Not Resuscitate (DNR) orders. Northeastern respects the right of the patient and family to invoke a DNR. In addition, among most of these patients, there were multiple existing co-morbid conditions, including a previous history of Stroke, Congestive Heart Failure, Chronic Obstructive Pulmonary Disease, Coronary Artery Disease, Renal Failure and Insulin Dependant Diabetes. The average severity group was 3, indicating a greater chance of mortality.

Temple East, Inc. - Northeastern Hospital is committed to improving the health of our community and routinely uses Atlas data in our quality endeavors. We continue to welcome the opportunity to participate in PHC4 comparative studies.

Sincerely,

Robert P. Perry
Executive Director/CEO
Temple East, Inc. - Northeastern Hospital

CC: Mary Lou Lafreniere, Associate Hospital Director, Quality Management
Dennis Guest, DO, Chairman, Performance Improvement Committee