



Two Crescent Park West
P.O. Box 68
Warren, PA 16365-0068

December 10, 2002
Marc P. Volavaka, Executive Director
Pennsylvania Health Care Cost Containment Council
225 Market Street, Suite 400
Harrisburg, PA 17101

Dear Mr. Volavaka,

Warren General Hospital welcomes the opportunity to comment on the 2001 Hospital Performance Report. We appreciate the work done by the PA Health Care Cost Containment Council.

Overall, Warren General's data for 2001 reflects our commitment to providing the best outcomes, the lowest cost of care and the easiest patient access for our community.

The information in the Performance Report is forwarded to the hospital Utilization Review and Quality Assurance Committee for review. It is used along with other data to continue our performance improvement efforts.

The 2001 Performance Report shows two DRGs that have higher than expected mortality rates. The DRGs for Diabetes and Pulmonary Embolism pertained to 24 patients treated during 2001 at Warren General Hospital.

Of those 24 patients there were four deaths. Three of the patients were over 75 years of age. In addition, all the patients had multiple serious medical problems. Other diagnoses for these patients included cancer, congestive heart failure, and pneumonia, as well as, histories of stroke or myocardial infarction. Two of the deaths occurred within 48 hours of admission, which reflects the serious nature of their condition on arrival in the hospital. Two of the patients were "do not resuscitate" and comfort care was provided after consultation with family members.

In conclusion and after careful review, the mortalities were not unexpected given the comorbidities and clinical presentation of the patients. No quality of care issues were identified.

Sincerely,



Thomas E. Serens, M.D.
Chairman - Utilization Review/Quality Assurance