



**THE WESTERN  
PENNSYLVANIA HOSPITAL**

4800 FRIENDSHIP AVENUE

PITTSBURGH, PA 15224

412-578-5000

December 5, 2002

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

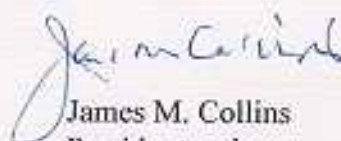
Dear Mr. Volavka:

The Western Pennsylvania Hospital is pleased to have the opportunity to comment on the Pennsylvania Health Care Cost Containment Council's 2001 Hospital Performance Report of twenty-eight selected Diagnosis Related Groups (DRGs).


At the Western Pennsylvania Hospital all deaths are reviewed as part of our continuous monitoring of the quality of care. We are pleased with the outcome of your analysis demonstrating that the mortality rate for all twenty-eight of these DRGs was within the expected range for our institution. In addition, we find the risk-adjusted readmission rate and outlier length of stay data to be valuable tools and will use them to aid in our improvement efforts.

Through an active Performance Improvement Program, the Hospital and Medical Staff work together continuously to evaluate and improve the care provided to our patients. We support the work of the Pennsylvania Health Care Cost Containment Council in its efforts to enhance the quality of patient care.

Sincerely yours,

  
James M. Collins  
President and  
Chief Executive Officer

  
Lee Walter, M.D.  
Physician Director of  
Utilization Management

  
Marian Block, M.D.  
Medical Director for Quality