



**ALLE-KISKI
MEDICAL CENTER**

WEST PENN ALLEGHENY HEALTH SYSTEM

1301 CARLISLE STREET, NATRONA HEIGHTS, PA 15065

724-226-7000. FAX: 724-226-7490

CINDY K. SCHAMP

President and Chief Executive Officer

October 13, 2003

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

Dear Mr. Volavka:

Alle-Kiski Medical Center appreciates the ongoing efforts of the Council in making outcome data available to the health care providers and the public. Our clinicians use this tool and other data to evaluate performance and welcomes the opportunity to comment on the 2002 Hospital Performance Report.

We are pleased that our risk-adjusted mortality rate for the 27 conditions reviewed demonstrate a rate within the expected. Chronic Obstructive Pulmonary Disease shows a rating of higher than expected short length of stay outliers.

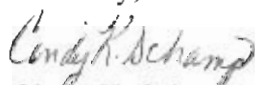
Twenty out of 247 patients (8.2%) were in this grouping. Of the 20 patients:

- four patients (20%) were admitted to observation beds for 23 hours prior to inpatient admission. This would make our percentage change to 6.4%.
- seven patients (35%) were admitted from extended care facilities and then returned
- six patients (30%) were discharged to home health care.
- one patient (.05%) was discharged to our psychiatric unit.

After review of the cases, we believe the shorter length of stay is due to the diligent work of our case management team in coordinating services and working with physicians to treat patients efficiently.

Alle-Kiski Medical Center appreciates the efforts of this Council in taking a lead role in comparing hospital performances and we will continue to strive toward improving the quality of patient care.

Sincerely,


Cindy K. Schamp