



One Nolte Drive • Kittanning, Pennsylvania 16201 • (724) 543-8500

ARMSTRONG COUNTY MEMORIAL HOSPITAL

October 14, 2003

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

Dear Mr. Volavka,

Armstrong County Memorial Hospital has chosen to respond to PHC4 data to be included in the FFY 2002 Hospital Performance Report. As an overview, it appears that in all categories the hospital has encountered adverse selection as a result of significant co-morbidities, advanced age, and disability in this population. Responses will specifically address data indicating a significantly higher than expected rate of mortality for the following conditions:

- Chronic Obstructive Pulmonary Disease (COPD)
- Congestive Heart Failure (CHF)
- Gallbladder Removal – Open
- Hip Fracture – Surgical Repair
- Prostatectomy – Transurethral

Chronic Obstructive Pulmonary Disease (COPD)

Armstrong County Memorial Hospital had six (06) mortalities for the reported data time frame. This number represents 3.9 mortalities more than the expected 2.1. The analysis of the causal factors contributing to these six mortalities is as follows:

- ◆ Five (05) of the six (06) patients representing 83% had significant co-morbidities including heart, renal or cancer complications at the time of their admission
- ◆ Four (04) of the six (06) patients representing 67% were considered terminal by their physicians at the time of admission
- ◆ Three (03) of the six (06) patients representing 50% were classified as a "No Code" during their admission
- ◆ Three (03) of the six (06) patients representing 50% suffered myocardial infarctions during their admission
- ◆ Two (02) of the six (06) patients ceased to breath within 24 hours of admission
- ◆ The average patient age was 81.3 years

Congestive Heart Failure (CHF)

Armstrong County Memorial Hospital had fifteen (15) mortalities for the reported data time frame. This number represents seven (07) mortalities more than the expected eight (08). The analysis of the causal factors contributing to these fifteen mortalities is as follows:

- ◆ Six (06) of the fifteen (15) patients representing 40% were considered terminal by their primary physician at the time of admission
- ◆ Twelve (12) of the fifteen (15) patients representing 80% were classified as a "No Code" during their admission
- ◆ Five (05) of the fifteen (15) patients representing 33% died within 24 hours of admission

A Century of Caring

- ◆ Fourteen (14) of the fifteen (15) patients representing 93% had significant co-morbidities as documented in their medical record at the time of admission
- ◆ The average patient was 76.9 years

Gallbladder Removal – Open

Armstrong County Memorial had two (02) mortalities for the reported data time frame. This number represents 1.98 mortalities more than expected 0.2. The analysis of the causal factors contributing to these mortalities is as follows:

- ◆ One (01) of the two (02) patients representing 50% had a significant co-morbidity (metastatic cancer) at the time of admission
- ◆ Both patients were classified as a "No Code" during their admission
- ◆ One (01) of the patients had been transferred to Armstrong County Memorial Hospital from a tertiary care hospital
- ◆ The average patient was 70.5 years

Hip Fracture – Surgical Repair

Armstrong County Memorial had five (05) mortalities for the reported data time frame. This number represents 4.1 mortalities more than the expected 0.9. The following analysis of causal factors is provided:

- ◆ All five (05) patients representing 100% had significant co-morbidities including heart, cancer or renal complications at the time of admission which ultimately contributed to their demise
- ◆ Three (03) of the five (05) patients representing 60% were classified as "No Code" during their admission
- ◆ One (01) of the five (05) patients was considered terminal by their attending physician at the time of admission with cirrhosis of the liver and hepatic encephalopathy. The patient surgery was initiated for comfort measures
- ◆ The average patient age was 79.6

Prostatectomy – Transurethral

Armstrong County Memorial had (1.0) mortality for the reported data time frame. This number represents 0.9 mortalities more than the expected 0.1. The following analysis of causal factors is provided:

- ◆ The patient had significant co-morbidities at the time of admission including heart failure and cardiomyopathy
- ◆ The patient died within 24 hours of admission
- ◆ The patient was 82 years of age

Submitted by:



Hal Altman, MD
Medical Director
Armstrong County Memorial Hospital