



October 7, 2003

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

Dear Mr. Volavka:

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on the Pennsylvania Health Care Cost Containment Council's Fiscal Year 2002 Hospital Performance Report.

Canonsburg General Hospital is pleased that the mortality rates for all of the conditions reviewed for the Hospital Performance Report demonstrated a rate within the expected range, with the exception of Chronic Obstructive Pulmonary Disease (COPD). The expected range of mortalities for this DRG was 0-4 and the actual number of mortalities was five (5). Medical record review of these five cases revealed no quality of care issues.

The condition, Lung Cancer, demonstrated a higher than expected rate for short length of stay percentage. Two of the eight patients with this condition experienced hospitalizations with a shorter than expected length of stay. Medical record review of these two cases revealed no quality of care issues. The length of stay for all other conditions in the Hospital Performance Report fell within the expected range.

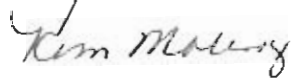
The outcome data provided by PHC4 for the Web Version of the 2002 Hospital Performance Report revealed mortality to be within the expected range for all DRG's reviewed.

DRG 395 demonstrated a higher than expected rate for short length of stay percentages. Five of the 29 cases in the DRG were discharged sooner than expected. Three of the five patients were transferred to a skilled facility and two were discharged to home. There were no quality issues identified with discharge sooner than expected.

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In conclusion, there were no quality of care issues revealed. Our hospital and medical staff work closely together to evaluate the care we provide our patients and we support the work of the Pennsylvania Health Care Cost Containment Council to share this information with the residents of our state.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Kim Malinky".

Kim Malinky
President and Chief Executive Officer

KM/deh/Letter-HC4