



October 13, 2003

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

Dear Mr. Volavka:

Holy Spirit Hospital appreciates the opportunity to comment on the *Hospital Performance Report* (Federal Fiscal Year 2002 data, October 1, 2001 – September 30, 2002) that will be released to the public on or about October 29, 2003. Our comments relate to mortality rates.

It is the practice of Holy Spirit Hospital and its Medical Staff to conduct a quality review of the records of patients who expire. This year's report states that we had a higher than expected mortality rating for patients in 11 (eleven) medical DRGs. Our review of these cases shows that the patients were diagnosed and treated appropriately. Quality of care concerns were not identified. The average age of these patients was 78 years. In addition, 88% of these patients had do not resuscitate (DNR) orders. According to the Council, DNR is not included in the risk adjustment calculations at this time.

Again, we appreciate the opportunity to comment on this draft report and look forward to the release of the final report. Thank you.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'Charles A. DeLone M.D.' with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Charles A. DeLone, M.D.  
Vice President of Medical Affairs