




HERITAGE VALLEY
Health System

Sewickley Valley Hospital - The Medical Center

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To: Marc P. Volavka
Executive Director
Pennsylvania Health Care Cost Containment Council
225 Market Street, Suite 400
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From: 
Michael J. Culyba, M.D.
Vice President, Medical Director
The Medical Center, Beaver

Date: October 15, 2003

Subject: Comments from The Medical Center, Beaver, PA, on 2002 PHC4 Hospital Performance Report

Please include these comments with the release of the 2002 Hospital Performance Report Infectious Pneumonia and Kidney Urinary Tract Infections for the Medical Center, Beaver:

There were 533 cases with Infectious Pneumonia with 45 mortalities (8.4%) and 187 cases with Kidney Urinary Tract Infections with 9 mortalities (4.8%). Do Not Resuscitate (DNR) orders on admission were requested by the patient's families for 87% of mortalities associated with Infectious Pneumonia and 78% of the mortalities associated with Kidney Urinary tract Infections.

Skilled Nursing Facility/Residential Facility was the admission source for 62% of the mortalities associated with Infectious Pneumonia and 67% of the mortalities associated with Kidney Urinary tract Infections.

The average age of the mortalities with Infectious Pneumonia and Kidney Urinary Tract Infection was 80. 45% of these patients exceeded 85 years of age.

Conclusion: **The Medical Center, Beaver** serves as the primary acute care admission site for most local nursing homes and the Beaver County Geriatric Center (Friendship Ridge). 63% of the mortalities associated with the above diagnosis were from these facilities. In addition 85% of the mortalities for patients with the above diagnoses had DNR orders on admission and the admission was to provide terminal care for these patients. We performed a detailed review on these cases and determined the care provided for these patients was appropriate.

We appreciate and support the effort of the Pennsylvania Health Care Cost Containment Council. This type of information is invaluable as a resource to evaluate and monitor the clinical care delivered at our hospital. We will continue to use this information in our ongoing efforts to improve the quality of care for the community we serve.