

October 15, 2003

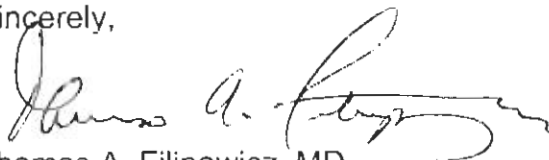
Mr. Marc P. Volavka
Executive Director
PHC4
225 Market Street, Suite 400
Harrisburg PA 17101

Dear Mr. Volavka:

It is always difficult to draw conclusions from data in which each individual case represents a significant percentage of patients in an individual category. That is why a small hospital such as ours may show up with higher than expected mortality statistics in some areas. In both non-hemorrhagic strokes and infectious pneumonia, one less death would have placed the mortality rate within the expected range for each diagnosis, respectively.

The other factors that skew our statistics are the high percentage of elderly patients in our area and our hospital, as well as the number of "do not resuscitate" patients admitted here. The average age of our non-hemorrhagic stroke patients who died in FY 2002 was 79. All were either level III or level IV "do not resuscitate" patients. The infectious pneumonia patients who died here in FY 2002 show an even more striking profile. The average age was 86, nine of ten were nursing home residents and, again, all were level III or level IV "do not resuscitate" patients.

Sincerely,



Thomas A. Filipowicz, MD
Medical Director

TAF:may