



Abington Memorial Hospital

1200 Old York Road, Abington, PA 19001-3788

September 20, 2007

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

Dear Mr. Volavka,

I write to offer comments on Abington Memorial Hospital's Annual Hospital Performance Report for the year 10/1/05-9/30/06.

Clinical Departmental Leadership has reviewed an appropriately sized or total sample of "readmissions for any reason" or "readmission for complications/infections" for each of the following five patient categories in which a greater than expected number of such events occurred: "diabetes, medical management", "respiratory failure without mechanical ventilator," "hip-fracture surgical repair," "removal of blockage of neck vessels" and lastly "surgery for infectious or parasitic disease."

No significant patterns of quality of care concerns were identified. Readmission was found to be a scheduled event for a number of patients. In the "respiratory failure" cluster we believe our numbers reflect the fact that we aggressively employ noninvasive ventilation (BiPAP) rather than intubating patients. Many, if not most, readmissions in all categories were found unrelated to the original admission diagnosis or non-preventable complications of surgery in high risk patients.

Two areas for which we recognized opportunities as a consequence of our self-audit were in medication reconciliation upon institutional transfer and communication of advance directives for patient care.

In closing we thank you for the opportunity to review, learn and comment.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "John J. Kelly". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial "J" and "K".

John J. Kelly, M.D., F.A.C.P.
JJK/fmp

Cc; Richard L. Jones, Jr.
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