

September 20, 2007

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

Dear Mr. Volavka,

The Heart of Lancaster Regional Medical Center has reviewed the data from the 2006 Hospital Performance Report. The report is consistent with our internal quality data results that our care is appropriate and outcomes are excellent.

In the outliers that address the length of the hospital stay, the data suggests a higher than expected length of stay in Chronic Obstructive Pulmonary Disease and Septicemia diagnoses, and a lower than expected length of stay in Congestive Heart Failure. Length of stay is one of the quality measures monitored monthly and in all cases it was determined that the patients received the appropriate care and were discharged in a time frame individualized to the patient. Our hospital medical and nursing staff advocates for the best outcome of each of our patients and an appropriate length of stay is imperative to ensuring a good outcome. As noted in the readmission rating these areas did not result in a higher than expected readmission rate.

The Heart of Lancaster supports the drive to publicly report and strives daily to give our community excellence in health care. Thank you for the opportunity to respond to the report.

Sincerely,



Steve Young, CEO
Interim Chief Executive Officer