



Quality & Care Management
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September 19, 2007

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

Dear Mr. Volavka:

We appreciate the opportunity to be able to submit comments regarding the soon-to-be released 2006 Hospital Performance Report and applaud the Council for its ongoing efforts to inform the public of performance outcomes on these common medical procedures.

The performance report indicated that Lehigh Valley Hospital – Muhlenberg's readmission rate for complications/infection for Hysterectomy - Vaginal was greater than expected. Upon review of the four cases, appropriate care was rendered in all cases including appropriate interventions to reduce the risk of post operative complications.

Again, we thank you for the opportunity to comment on this report. Any questions please do not hesitate to contact me at 610-402-8656.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'A Ardire MD'.

Anthony Ardire MD, MPH, CPE
Senior Vice President
Quality and Patient Safety