



November 30, 2012

Joseph Martin
Executive Director
PA Health Care Cost Containment Council
225 Market Street Suite 400
Harrisburg, PA 17101

Dr. Mr. Martin:

The following are the comments submitted on behalf of Monongahela Valley Hospital, Inc. in response to the release of The Hospital Performance Report for Calendar Year 2011.

The Hospital was identified as having a statistically significant high mortality rate in Congestive Heart Failure (CHF).

The Hospital treated 381 patients having CHF and seventeen (17) patients died. Each of the seventeen (17) cases was thoroughly reviewed. All of the patients were End Stage Congestive Heart Failure. Eleven (11) of the seventeen (17) cases were discharged to Inpatient Hospice and died because the patient and family had made the determination that the patient's condition was terminal and end of life. Three (3) of the seventeen (17) patients had Do Not Resuscitate papers signed by the patient or significant other due to the overall poor health condition of the patient. The remaining three (3) patients all had end stage CHF, additional medical conditions which impacted survivability and all were in the hospital for less than 48 hours – one patient only one (1) hour and one patient only five (5) hours.

The Hospital has an effective Performance Improvement program and all of these cases were reviewed as part of that program. Following review, no areas of concern were identified.

The Hospital's mission is to enhance the health of the residents of the mid-Monongahela Valley and the Hospital continues its commitment to provide our community with the highest quality care to meet their health care needs.

Very Truly Yours,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Donna Ramusivich". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Donna L. Ramusivich
Senior Vice President

DLR:kq