

October 27, 2020

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

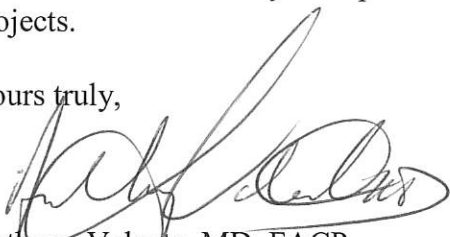
Dear Mr. Martin:

Thank you for the opportunity to respond to this year's report.

We are very pleased with the results of the data presented to us this year by the Health Care Cost Containment Council. I would like to explain the significantly higher than expected Mortality in the category: intestinal obstruction. The volume was small with three (3) patients and two of the three patients identified had care refused by the families due to underlying comorbid conditions and advanced age. That being said the data does not accurately represent our care of these patients since their outcomes were based on family preference of comfort care versus surgical option.

Our commitment to providing cost-effective, quality health care to our community drives our corporate vision. We will continue to strive for further improvement in our care of our patients, and we look forward to your reports for use as benchmarks in our continuing quality improvement projects.

Yours truly,



Anthony Valente, MD, FACP  
Chief Medical Officer, Lehigh Valley Hospital-Hazleton