

ALLEGHENY
GENERAL HOSPITAL

WEST PENN ALLEGHENY HEALTH SYSTEM

320 EAST NORTH AVENUE PITTSBURGH PA 15212-1077

412-359-5

April 23, 2003

VIA CERTIFIED MAIL
RETURN RECEIPT REQUESTED
No. 7001136000254249245

Evelyn S. Berwick, M.D.
1605 Lowrie Street
Pittsburgh, PA 15323

Dear Dr. Berwick:

The Executive Committee of the Medical Staff at Allegheny General Hospital has received a request from the Department of Medicine pursuant to Article VII 3A of the Medical Staff Bylaws to conduct an evaluation of your medical practice at AGH. The basis for the request is set forth in the attached correspondence dated March 21, 2003 from Sharon C. Kiely, M.D. to the undersigned.


On April 21, 2003, the Executive Committee of the Medical Staff appointed an ad hoc committee pursuant to Article VII 3B of the Medical Staff Bylaws to conduct the evaluation of your medical practice and report back to the Executive Committee of the Medical Staff. The ad hoc committee is comprised of Betsy Blazek-O'Neil, M.D., Van Nickell, M.D., and Tom Julian, M.D. Jerry Fedele has been designated as legal counsel to the ad hoc committee.

Pursuant to Article VII 3B of the Medical Staff Bylaws, you may submit to the undersigned a written objection to any member of the ad hoc committee within three (3) working days after receipt of this correspondence.

The ad hoc committee will be convened in the near future to evaluate this matter. Pursuant to Article VII 3B of the Medical Staff Bylaws, you will have an opportunity to meet with the ad hoc committee before it reports to the Executive Committee of the Medical Staff.

Thank you in advance for your cooperation regarding this matter.

Sincerely,


Donal Warde, M.D.
President of the Executive
Committee of the Medical Staff
Allegheny General Hospital

ALLEGHENY
GENERAL HOSPITAL

WEST PENN. ALLEGHENY HEALTH SYSTEM

320 E. 101 NORTH AVENUE PITTSBURGH PA 15212-4070

412-359-5131

March 21, 2002

Donal Warde, MD
President, ECMS
Medical Staff Office

CONFIDENTIAL - Re: Evelyn Berwick, MD

Dear Dr. Warde:

After thoughtful consideration, the Department of Medicine has cause to question Dr. Evelyn Berwick's quality of patient care and compliance with Hospital procedure. As a result of this, and as provided in the Bylaws of the Medical Staff (Article VII, Section 3) Procedure for Actions Involving Medical Staff Members or Holders of Clinical Privileges, I request an evaluation of Dr. Berwick's practice at Allegheny General Hospital. This request for an evaluation is based on a patient care episode that came to my attention last evening, as well as a concern that this episode is not an isolated example of the quality of Dr. Berwick's medical care. At the time of this incident, Richard Shannon, MD, Chair of the Department of Medicine, was away from AGH on vacation. Therefore, as senior department representative, I was called to respond to this patient care issue and I have done so with considerable counsel, including Michael White, MD, President of the Medical Staff, and members of the Hospital administration. I am writing this letter on behalf of Dr. Shannon.

On March 20, 2003 at 6:00 pm, AGH case management notified me that Dr. Berwick had not evaluated a patient who had been hospitalized on the afternoon of March 19, 2003. The patient had been admitted from the emergency room following several falls at home, and there was a suspicion that she had experienced syncope. The day after admission, a medical director from the patient's insurance company requested initiation of physician peer review and additional physician oversight of this patient's care. The nurse manager informed me that Dr. Berwick had given verbal orders on both 3/19 and 3/20 in response to staff requests, and that a neurology resident was currently evaluating the patient. It was his opinion that the patient was having mental status changes. While attempting to reach Dr. Berwick, I called the floor again to check on the patient. The nursing supervisor informed me that Dr. Berwick had arrived on the floor at 7:15 pm, had seen the patient and had written orders for diet and other interventions. It was his opinion that the patient was stable. Subsequently, I discussed the case with Dr. Berwick and it was her opinion that the patient was "ok." However, she admitted that she understood that a history and physical within 24 hours of admission was an AGH standard and that she did not meet that standard. I informed her that formal peer review would take place the following day and she agreed. After peer review today, concerns remained regarding the management of the patient. Following this, I consulted with Hospital administration and President of the Medical Staff, Michael White, MD. Dr. Berwick and I, together with Mr. Frank DiLisi, discussed the concerns brought up in peer review and she voluntarily agreed to transfer the care of this patient, and admit all future patients to the Hospitalist service until this evaluation can be concluded. Dr. Berwick voiced an understanding of and agreement to going forward with the evaluation process.