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MEDICAL SOCIETY®

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April 8, 2010

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

Re: Pennsylvania Bulletin: Continued Collection of Laboratory Data for the
Purpose of Risk Adjusting Healthcare Outcomes Public Comment

Dear Mr. Martin:

I am writing as President of the Pennsylvania Medical Society (PAMED) regarding the above captioned statement of the Pennsylvania Health Care Cost Containment Council (PHC4). The Pennsylvania Medical Society strongly supports the continued collection of laboratory data for the purpose of risk-adjusting healthcare outcomes, as proposed by the PHC4 Council.

PAMED has supported collection, analysis, and reporting this data as an integral part of the process by which a patient's severity of illness is determined. PAMED physician representatives to the Council and its advisory committees have stressed the need for uniform collection of this data and have worked with PHC4 to determine how best to carry out the collection and analysis of the data.

PAMED supports the efforts of the PHC4 to provide clinically appropriate data for use by the provider and payer communities and the public.

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Sincerely,

James A. Goodyear, MD
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Cc: David Campbell, MD, Council member
Paul Casale, MD, Council member
Daniel Glunk, MD, PHC4 Review Committee member