



**THE WESTERN  
PENNSYLVANIA HOSPITAL**

---

4800 FRIENDSHIP AVENUE

PITTSBURGH, PA 15224

412-578-5000

April 25, 2002

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

Dear Mr. Volavka:

The Western Pennsylvania Hospital is pleased to have the opportunity to comment on the *Guide to Coronary Artery Bypass Graft Surgery, 2000* published by the Pennsylvania Health Care Cost Containment Council.

As part of our performance improvement process at The Western Pennsylvania Hospital, case reviews of coronary artery bypass graft procedures are regularly completed by the Division of Cardiothoracic Surgery. In addition, both national and regional comparative data are utilized, allowing the Hospital to benchmark outcomes, and continuously enhance current practice.

The Hospital recognizes the addition of the readmission data to the *Guide to Coronary Artery Bypass Graft Surgery, 2000*, and will incorporate the report information into our quality improvement review processes in the future.

Through an active Performance Improvement Program, the Hospital and Medical Staff work collaboratively to evaluate the care provided to our patients. The Western Pennsylvania Hospital is committed to providing the highest quality of care and to continuously improve performance.

Sincerely,

James M. Collins  
President and Chief Executive Officer  
The Western Pennsylvania Hospital

David Lerberg, M.D.  
Chief, Division of Cardiothoracic Surgery  
The Western Pennsylvania Hospital Medical Staff