



**THE WESTERN  
PENNSYLVANIA HOSPITAL**

WEST PENN ALLEGHENY HEALTH SYSTEM

4800 FRIENDSHIP AVENUE, PITTSBURGH, PA 15224

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February 28, 2005

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

Dear Mr. Volavka:

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on the Pennsylvania Health Care Cost Containment Council's *Guide to Coronary Artery Bypass Graft Surgery, 2003*. The Western Pennsylvania Hospital appreciates the Council's efforts to provide hospitals with information that can be integrated into ongoing performance improvement processes.

As part of our active Performance Improvement program, employees and physicians work collaboratively to continuously evaluate the care provided to our patients, identify opportunities for improvement and develop strategies to achieve those improvement goals. The PHC4 data, as well as national data, are used regularly to benchmark our progress.

The Performance Improvement program has led to improvements in many areas, and we are pleased that the 2003 report shows that West Penn Hospital is performing within expected ranges in all areas.

In closing, we would like to reiterate The Western Pennsylvania Hospital's commitment to providing the highest quality of care to all patients and to offer our continued support of the Council's mission to improve health care across the Commonwealth.

Sincerely yours,

James M. Collins  
President and  
Chief Executive Officer

David Lerberg, MD  
Chief  
Division of Cardiothoracic Surgery