



May 7, 2007

Mr. Marc 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 review and comment on the Pennsylvania Health Care Cost Containment Council's (PHC4) 2005 CABG/Valve Report. We greatly appreciate the work that PHC4 is doing to improve healthcare in Pennsylvania.

Holy Spirit Hospital strives to provide quality healthcare. As we provide quality healthcare, we implement, track and report quality initiatives. Our Quality Council focuses on clinical quality improvements throughout the institution.

Holy Spirit Hospital has a high quality and rapidly growing cardiac program. The Ortenzio Heart Center is well-utilized by the area's cardiac physicians and thousands of patients every year. Our cardiac surgery program began in October 2001. We performed 73 cardiothoracic surgeries the first year and we expect to perform more than 400 cardiothoracic surgeries in fiscal year 2007. We performed 2,000 catheterization procedures in the first year of our program. In fiscal year 2007 we expect to perform more than 3,100 catheterization procedures.

Holy Spirit Hospital ranks as one of the nation's top hospitals for providing fast emergency care to heart attack patients. We are able to provide this quick care because we have a dedicated heart center. Nationally only a third of hospitals meet the 90-minute goal for treating heart attack patients, and we beat that by a significant margin.

We participate in the Society for Thoracic Surgery national database. The most recent results available (January through June 2006) show that Holy Spirit's mortality rate is almost 9% better than the national average.

As a community healthcare institution, Holy Spirit Hospital takes seriously its responsibility to provide high quality care to our community. We are fully committed to continuous quality improvement.

Sincerely,

Joseph A. Torchia, MD  
Chief Medical Officer