



April 9, 2001

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

Dear Mr. Volavka:

On behalf of the Department of Obstetrics and Gynecology at Pocono Medical Center, I would like to take this opportunity to respond to the 1999 C-section Deliveries in Pennsylvania. The rate that is being evaluated is the total c-section rate of 27.4% which includes primary and repeat c-sections. Our physicians believe the more important data lies with the primary c-section rate of 17.4% in 1999. A woman delivering at Pocono Medical Center, that has never had a child or has never had a child by c-section, has a c-section rate of 17.4%.

Our VBAC rate has been below the State level. However, patients are counseled and explained risks and benefits data on VBAC. Our population to date has been choosing repeat c-section more often than statewide data.

The 1999 data as presented regarding the c-section rate is distorted due to the higher repeat c-section rate but the true rate of delivering by c-section at Pocono Medical Center, given the fact a woman has never had a c-section, is 17.4%.

We thank you for this opportunity to respond to this data.

Sincerely yours,

Karen McColl, MD
Vice Chairman, Department of Obstetrics and Gynecology
Pocono Medical Center