



**ALLE-KISKI
MEDICAL CENTER**

WEST PENN ALLEGHENY HEALTH SYSTEM

1301 CARLISLE STREET, NATRONA HEIGHTS, PA 15065

724-224-5100

ALLEGHENY VALLEY HOSPITAL

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

Dear Mr. Volavka,

Alle-Kiski Medical Center is pleased to have the opportunity to comment on the Pennsylvania Health Care Cost Containment Council report release, Report on Total Hip and Knee Replacements, FY2002.

At Alle-Kiski, we continuously review and monitor treatment outcomes in an effort to provide and maintain high quality and efficient patient care. We are within the expected range of complications and lower than expected in readmission.

The Hospital and medical staff will continue to work cooperatively to monitor patient outcomes as part of our continuing performance improvement efforts. All effects related to outcomes reporting must continue to be approached in a responsible and thoughtful manner. We support the Council's efforts to provide outcomes information for informed healthcare decision-making.

Sincerely,

Michael Harlovic
V.P. Patient Services