



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

Dear Mr. Volavka:

To comment on the *Total Hip and Knee Replacement Report, FY2002*, Jeanes Hospital has reviewed the final results of the analyses and the outcome data which were sent to us on April 14, 2005 and can explain our higher than expected outcomes for the occurrence of blood clots.

1. Our Orthopedic Department orders doppler studies on all patients prior to discharge. This practice most certainly contributes to the increased number of blood clots detected due to the increase number of studies performed.
2. These studies are read by the Vascular Surgery Department which has very strict interpretation criteria. In addition, the studies are performed by Vascular Surgical Technicians and, therefore, are of superior diagnostic quality.
3. Many of the blood clots discovered were superficial and of no clinical significance.

Jeanes Hospital remains committed to providing quality care to our patients. We have made significant strides in the improvement of clinical outcomes since 2001 through various performance improvement activities, not only in orthopedics, but also in all aspects of patient care.

Sincerely,

Joel M. Weissman, MD
Chief Medical Officer