



# Lancaster General Hospital

May 6, 2005

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

Dear Mr. Volavka:

Thank you for the opportunity to participate and comment on the Total Hip and Knee Replacements report for fiscal year 2002. Members of our medical staff and Quality Improvement Department compared the report's findings with our medical records and now provide the following observations:

Lancaster General Hospital's higher than expected rating in complications regarding deep joint infections or device problems resulted from clerical, not clinical, errors. An internal review of the clinical data submitted to PHC4 shows that, had it been submitted correctly by LGH to PHC4, we are confident that our performance for that indicator would fall within an expected rating. We note that this is the first report on total hip and knee replacements to be published by PHC4 and we have implemented changes to insure future submissions are accurately accounted for by the Council.

We also note that the data utilized by the Council is for fiscal year 2002. Since that time, Lancaster General Hospital has opened a new orthopedic center and implemented several clinical and operational advancements as part of our continuous quality improvement process.

Lancaster General is committed to its mission of advancing the health and quality of life of the individuals and communities we serve, by providing superior healthcare that demonstrates community benefit. We look forward to continuing our work with PHC4 in providing relevant and accurate healthcare information to the general public. Thank you again for the opportunity to comment on the information included in your latest report.

Sincerely,

Stephen T. Olin M.D.  
Medical Director Patient Safety and Performance Improvement  
Lancaster General Hospital

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