



MERCY HOSPITAL, SCRANTON
MERCY HOSPITAL, WILKES-BARRE
MERCY HEALTH CARE CENTER
MERCY SPECIAL CARE HOSPITAL
MERCY MANAGED CARE, INC.
MERCY MED - CARE, INC.
MERCY HOME HEALTH /
MERCY HOSPICE

E. DONALD KOTCHICK, M.D.
VICE PRESIDENT MEDICAL AFFAIRS

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May 2, 2005

Marc P. Volvaka
Executive Director
Pennsylvania Health Care Cost Containment Council
225 Market Street, Suite 400
Harrisburg, PA 17010

Dear Mr. Volvaka,

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on the FY2002 Total Hip & Knee Replacements Report. Mercy Hospital Scranton its Clinical Teams and Administration thank the Pennsylvania Health Care Cost Containment Council for the information provided in the report.

Mercy Hospital, Scranton, is proud of its' overall performance in the areas of quality care, outcomes and cost. We feel the results outlined in this report are a testament to our commitment to providing a high quality hip and knee replacement surgery program within the community we serve. Mercy Hospital maintains an active Quality program in which the Hospital, Physicians, and staff work collaboratively to evaluate and continually improve the care to our patients. The data collected by PHC4 is a component of this review process, along with national data that is used to benchmark our performance.

Mercy Hospital, Scranton, is dedicated to providing the highest quality of care possible for all our patients and offer our continued support to the Council's efforts to provide meaningful data which will assist us in meeting this goal.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "E. Donald Kotchick, M.D.", written in a cursive style.

E. Donald Kotchick, M.D.
Vice President Medical Affairs