



Orthopaedic Associates
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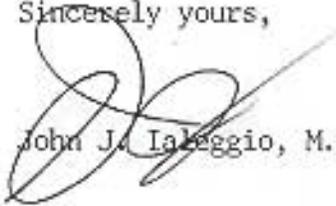
Mark P. Volavka
Executive Director
Pennsylvania Health Care Costs
Containment Council
225 Market Street, Suite 400
Harrisburg, PA 17101

Dear Mr. Volavka:

I have reviewed the recent report on total hip and knee replacements submitted to your council. The reflected data showed a slightly elevated incidence of deep vein thrombosis/clot. Not noted, however, was the fact that these patients, a majority of which, were morbidly obese. Obesity is a risk factor for the above noted post-operative problem.

Thank you for consideration in this matter.

Sincerely yours,


John J. Ialleggio, M.D.

JJI/jk