



PINNACLEHEALTH
Hospitals

May 5, 2005

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

Dear Mr. Volavka:

Thank you for the opportunity to respond to your "Total Hip and Knee Replacements FY2002 Performance Report." Pinnacle Health System recognizes the importance and value of PHC4 and supports the intent of the Council in publishing this information.

PinnacleHealth is dedicated to providing quality orthopedic care to our community. The Orthopedic Department Quality Committee performs a careful review of all cases with serious complications and takes appropriate action if any deviation in standard of care is found. In addition, a number of system improvements have been made and continue to be made based on our Orthopedic department QA/PI program. A multi-disciplinary approach with an emphasis on teamwork is the foundation for improving each aspect of our program.

Again, we thank you for the opportunity to comment on the information included in your latest report.

Sincerely,

Dana Kellis, MD
Senior Vice President, Medical Affairs
Chief Medical Officer