



815 Freeport Road  
Pittsburgh, PA 15215

May 6, 2005

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

Dear Mr. Volavka:

Thank you for the opportunity to provide comments regarding UPMC St. Margaret's outcomes and data for the Total Hip and Knee Replacement report. We appreciate the council's work to provide hospitals with information that can be used to augment ongoing quality performance improvement. The hospital and medical staff collaboratively and continuously evaluate the care provided to our patients. The PHC4 data along with other national data provide a benchmark for process improvement efforts.

In review of our data, we were pleased to see that performance of our total hip and knee surgery program is within the expected range for overall complications, readmissions and complications related to infections. These findings show a commitment to providing exceptional care for our total hip and knee population for the community we serve.

We appreciate the Council's effort in producing the report so all consumers have a resource for this information.

Sincerely,

Marjorie Jacobs, R.N.  
Director, Care/Quality Management

MJ:dp