



UPMC HEALTH SYSTEM

UPMC Lee Regional

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Johnstown, PA 15901
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October 15, 2003

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

Dear Mr. Volavka:

This letter is submitted in response to the Pennsylvania Health Care Containment Council's intent to release the *Hospital Performance Report* (Federal Fiscal Year 2002 data, October 1, 2001 – September 30, 2002).

DRG 296 – Nutritional and Miscellaneous Metabolic Disorders, Age Greater than 17 with CC.

DRG 296 captures a disproportionate number of our terminal and palliative care cases, thus accounting for an elevated mortality rate. This fact is supported by the finding that all 10 (100%) of the mortalities within DRG 296 had a previously established *Do Not Resuscitate* order.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Richard Cartwright'.

Richard Cartwright, M.D.
Medical Director