



UPMC HEALTH SYSTEM

UPMC Presbyterian/UPMC Shadyside

October 14, 2003

Elizabeth B. Concordia
President

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

Dear Mr. Volavka;

UPMC South Side is pleased to have the opportunity to comment on the Pennsylvania Health Care Cost Containment Council's *Hospital Performance Report Federal Fiscal Year 2002 data* (October 1, 2001 – September 30, 2002).

UPMC South Side's medical and administrative leadership have reviewed the data and appreciate the opportunity to access hospital effectiveness benchmarks, which address the care delivery systems within our institution.

The mortality information contained in this report indicates that we perform at or below the expected mortality rates in 42 of the 43 DRG categories. Current review of data (October 1, 2002 to June 30, 2003) for that one DRG demonstrates no mortalities for 11 cases. As part of our ongoing quality improvement program all mortalities are objectively reviewed by an independent member of the medical staff and includes an assessment of established quality standards of care.

UPMC South Side will continue to evaluate processes and outcomes of patient care. Thank you for the opportunity to comment on the 2002 Hospital Performance Report.

Sincerely,

Elizabeth B. Concordia
President & CEO