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Mr. 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 2003 data.

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.

As part of our ongoing quality improvement program all mortalities, length of stay outliers, and readmissions 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 2003 Hospital Performance Report.

Sincerely,

Nancy J. Magee
President