



**Medical Staff/Medical Education**

A nonprofit community health care system

September 3, 2010

Joseph Martin, Executive Director  
Pennsylvania Health Care Cost Containment Council  
225 Market Street, Suite 400  
Harrisburg, PA 17101

Dear Mr. Martin:

Altoona Regional Health System appreciates the opportunity to respond to our data published by the Pennsylvania Health Care Cost Containment Council relating to our Hospital Performance Report October 1, 2008 through September 30, 2009.

In addition to constantly monitoring all the care we provide to our patients to improve outcomes and patient safety, all cases of less than optimal outcome are reviewed very carefully to assure we are providing the highest quality of care.

Many of the patients that did not fair well in the current reporting period had pre-existing multi-organ disease compounded by very advanced age. Patient and family directives frequently limited the amount of support we could provide.

We wish the public to know that the safety and quality of care provided to our community is our number one goal.

Sincerely yours,

David L. Cowger, M.D.  
Senior Vice President, Quality/Medical affairs  
Chief Medical Officer  
Altoona Regional Health System

DLC/bac