



The Health Network of

THE CHESTER COUNTY HOSPITAL

701 East Marshall Street, 2nd Floor • West Chester, PA 19380

Telephone: 610-738-3690 • Fax: 610-738-2696

Thoracic and CardioVascular Surgery

Verdi J. DiSessa, M.D.

Chief, Cardiac Surgery

Medical Director, CardioVascular Center

Martin LeBoutillier III, M.D.

Associate Cardiac Surgeon

August 27, 2008

Flossie Wolf

Acting Deputy Executive Director

Pennsylvania Health Care Cost Containment Council

225 Market Street, Suite 400

Harrisburg, PA 17101

Dear Ms. Wolf,

In reference to the reported in-hospital and operative mortalities for Dr. Martin LeBoutillier for combined years 2005 – 2006:

The number of cases reported by PHC4 is not reflective of the total number of cases performed by an individual surgeon. For the combined years of 2005 and 2006, the Chester County Hospital had 37 cases excluded from the denominator of total cardiac surgery cases. Dr LeBoutillier had 16 cases excluded, 14 of them due to the clinical complexity of the cases as determined by PHC4.

In smaller volume programs such as ours, excluded cases which do not include mortalities can have a significant and potentially negative impact on reported outcomes.

The Society of Thoracic Surgeons (STS) has a comprehensive rating system that allows for comparisons regarding the quality of cardiac surgery among hospitals across the country. The cardiac surgery performance of our hospital was recently rated with 2 stars - not significantly different than the STS mean. The performance of our individual surgeons is as good as or better than most programs included in the STS data base.

The choice of a hospital or a surgeon is an important decision. There is a large amount of information available to patients seeking quality health care. Patients are best served by meeting and talking with their potential physicians, and by evaluating a hospital or program based on all available information and not a single report.

Thank you for this opportunity to comment on our cardiac surgery program.

Sincerely,

Verdi J. DiSessa M.D.

Chief, Cardiac Surgery

Medical Director, CardioVascular Center

In affiliation with



Cleveland Clinic

Heart Surgery