



ALLEGHENY GENERAL HOSPITAL

WEST PENN ALLEGHENY HEALTH SYSTEM

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May 02, 2007

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

Dear Mr. Volavka:

Allegheny General Hospital would like to thank the Pennsylvania Health Care Cost Containment Council for the invitation to review and comment on the results of the calendar year 2005 report on coronary artery bypass and cardiac valve surgery. The Department of Thoracic and Cardiovascular Surgery at Allegheny works closely with the Allegheny Clinical Effectiveness group to support high quality information management for support of all internal and external process analysis initiatives.

As active participants in regional and national outcomes projects, including the STS National Database, we support the efforts of the PHC4 to expand the report to include data on cardiac valve procedures. We encourage the Council to consider refining the process to educate the public on the well established differences in the risks for each type of valve procedure. While this approach might necessitate a multi-year data harvest, it would certainly increase the usefulness of this tool for our patients.

We appreciate the opportunity to comment on this important, ongoing process and remain committed to working with the Council, as we have in the past.

Sincerely,

George J. Magovern, Jr. M.D.
Chair, Department of Thoracic and Cardiovascular Surgery

Sharon C. Kiely, M.D., M.P.M.
Medical Director of Quality and Patient Safety

Connie M. Cibrone,
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cc: Dan Laurent, Director of System Media Relations
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