



VIA FACSIMILE

July 9, 2010

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

Dear Mr. Martin:

We at the Hospital of the University of Pennsylvania appreciate the ability to publish our comments on the 2007-2008 Open Heart Surgery Report. We have reviewed the data that will be made publically available, as well as the medical records we have here, and would like to identify a couple of key points.

Our colleagues in the Pennsylvania, New Jersey and Delaware region recognize that the work we do at the Hospital of the University of Pennsylvania is the most advanced in the area. Of the 1039 CABG and Valve cases performed at HUP in 2007 and 2008 by the Cardiovascular Surgery Division, 30% (309) were patients who were transferred to us by another facility. Of those transfers, 70% came from facilities (49 of 70) which have open heart surgery programs. These patients were transferred due to their elevated risk profile and surgical complexity. We are honored that these patients, families and referring physicians trust us in the most desperate of situations. We accept this challenge, and our goal is to provide all patients their best chance at survival and a quality life, even though we know we are not always going to be successful, and our statistics will reflect this risk.

We remain extremely proud of the reputation for innovative and exceptional patient-centered care at the Hospital of the University of Pennsylvania and we will continue to service the needs of our community, region and state while maintaining the very highest level of cardiac surgery outcomes.

Sincerely,

Patrick J. Brennan, MD
Chief Medical Officer and Senior Vice President
University of Pennsylvania Health System