



# Abington Memorial Hospital

1200 Old York Road, Abington, PA 19001-3788

July 9, 2010

John J. Kelly, M.D., F.A.C.P.  
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Mr. Joe Martin  
Executive Director  
Pennsylvania Health Care Cost Containment Council  
225 Market Street, 4th Floor  
Harrisburg, PA 17101

Dear Mr. Martin:

We received and reviewed the results of the PHC4 2007-2008 Cardiac Surgery report for Abington Memorial Hospital in Abington, Pennsylvania. This data includes five patients which we believe should have been excluded from this analysis on the basis of their highly technical and preoperative risk factors. This group of patients with high preoperative risk included a patient with cardiogenic shock who suffered a cardiac arrest requiring ACLS/CPR a day before surgery, a patient who was ventilator dependent requiring new onset hemodialysis two days prior to surgery and a patient with cardiomyopathy with a preoperative ejection fraction of less than 10%.

These patients reflect the extraordinary commitment of the late Dr. V. Paul Addonizio. Each patient had exhausted all non-surgical treatment options and expressed that their profound disease process kept them from having an acceptable quality of life. We provided compassionate surgical care for these patients, despite high preoperative risk.

We appreciate the opportunity to comment on the information included in your report and to demonstrate our ongoing commitment to compassionate patient care.

Sincerely,

John J. Kelly, M.D.  
Chief of Staff/Chief Patient Safety Officer  
Abington Memorial Hospital