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altoona hospital
CENTER FOR MEDICINE

JAMES W. BARNER
PRESIDENT/CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER

February 23, 2004

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

Dear Mr. Volavka:

The Altoona Hospital and its Medical Staff were pleased to participate in the Pennsylvania Health Care Cost Containment Council's (PHC4) 2002 CABG Report. We value the contribution of this effort and thank PHC4 for providing us with a standardized tool for assessing the effectiveness of healthcare providers in our Commonwealth. The data provides us with an additional tool to measure our own performance.

The report clearly indicates the outstanding high-quality cardiac surgery program at Altoona Hospital. Our surgical program was a first in the Central Pennsylvania region beginning back in 1989. Our years of experience, highly qualified personnel, and program maturity are undoubtedly significant contributors to the results of this report.

It could be said that the ultimate standard of performance for CABG surgery is mortality. The PHC4 2002 report showed, both collectively and individually, that Altoona Hospital surgeons performed within the expected mortality range. We are also proud of Drs. Anastasi and Fazi for achieving zero in-patient mortality for their respective surgical cases.

In summary, we believe the Altoona Hospital scores demonstrate the high-quality of care found at Altoona Hospital for CABG surgery. We will continue to use this data, as well as many other measures, as part of our overall quality improvement efforts.

Sincerely,

James W. Barner
President and Chief Executive Officer

Michael-Gerard Moncman, D.O.
President, Medical Staff