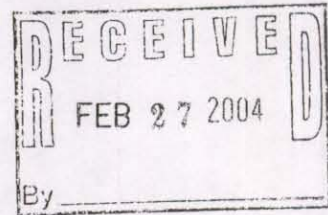


 **HOLY
SPIRIT**
HOSPITAL
The Spirit of Caring



February 26, 2004

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

Dear Mr. Volavka:

Holy Spirit Hospital appreciates the opportunity to comment on the *Guide to Coronary Artery Bypass Graft Surgery, 2002* that will be released to the public on or about Wednesday, March 10, 2004.

The 2002 PHC4 Coronary Artery Bypass Graft (CABG) report indicates that Holy Spirit Hospital had a higher than expected mortality rating for patients who had CABG procedures in calendar year 2002.

- PHC4 provides a good tool to compare the outcomes of patients who have had the same procedure at different hospitals. However, by its nature, an annual report only provides information as a snapshot in time.
- In 2002, 107 patients had CABG surgery at Holy Spirit Hospital. Five of these patients died (4.7% mortality rate). Every case was reviewed, and *no* quality of care issues were found.
- In 2003, we performed 149 CABG procedures and had one death. When PHC4 releases its 2003 CABG report, it is expected to show that Holy Spirit – with a mortality figure of less than one percent – is far better than the national and state expected mortality figures.


A Service of Holy Spirit Health System
503 North 21st Street • Camp Hill, PA 17011-2288
(717) 763-2100

Mr. Marc P. Volavka
February 26, 2004
Page 2

- In 2001, we performed 12 CABG procedures and had no deaths. So far in 2004, we have performed 32 CABG procedures (as of February 13) and have had no deaths.
- Overall, our cumulative mortality average for CABG procedures is 2.0% - that is better than PHC4's expected mortality rate and better than the current Society of Thoracic Surgery's national benchmark of 2.5%. By every standard, Holy Spirit Hospital has a superb heart program.

Again, we appreciate the opportunity to comment on this draft report and look forward to the release of the final report. Thank you.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Charles A. DeLone". The signature is written in black ink and has a long, sweeping horizontal line extending to the right.

Charles A. DeLone, M.D.
Vice President of Medical Affairs