

JEFFERSON
REGIONAL MEDICAL CENTER
Medical excellence closer to home

February 25, 2004

Mark P. Volavka
Executive Director
Pennsylvania Health Care Cost Containment Council
225 Market Street
Suite 400
Harrisburg, Pa 17101

Dear Mr. Volavka,

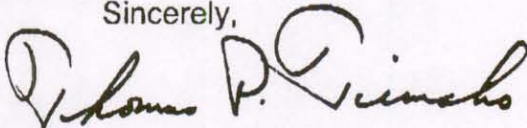
Thank you for the opportunity to provide Jefferson Regional Medical Center's comments on our outcomes and data for the 2002 CABG report. We have reviewed the data and are pleased to see that performance of our open heart surgery program is within expected ranges for all of the patient outcomes reported, including mortality rates, readmission rates and risk adjusted length of stay.

Although many of the individual surgeons who perform open heart surgery at the JRMC Heart Institute did not have sufficient volume at our institution for detailed individual analysis of those particular cases within this report, the aggregate results across all facilities for all of the CT surgeons who perform surgery at our facility demonstrated outcomes within expected levels. This, in combination with our institutional results, shows that both our surgeons and our hospital are achieving good quality results in open heart surgery.

These findings are a testament to our commitment to providing a high quality open heart surgery program within the community we serve.

We appreciate the efforts of the Pennsylvania Health Care Cost Containment Council in producing this report, so that health care consumers in the commonwealth have a resource for this type of information.

Sincerely,



Thomas Timcho
Interim President & CEO

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