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Health Partners

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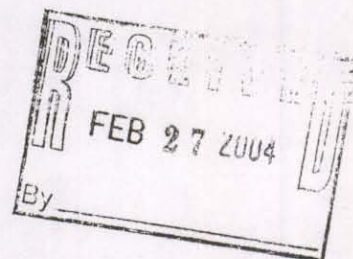
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February 26, 2004

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



Dear Mr. Volavka,

Mercy Hospital/ Scranton, its Clinical Teams and Administration thank the PHC4 for the analysis and publication of its 2002 CABG Report.

As in past publicly reported data, we are proud of our overall results in quality, outcomes and costs. In an era when the treatment of coronary artery disease is undergoing such radical changes, we feel that we are continuing to provide outstanding quality care for our patients in a community based hospital.

In keeping with our constant striving for excellence in cardiovascular care our lowest volume surgeon is no longer with our institution.

We look forward to our continued participation in the PHC4 Data Collection and Publication and will utilize the information in planning our Quality Improvement Projects.

Sincerely,

E. Donald Kothick, M.D.  
V. P. Medical Affairs

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