



Divine Providence Hospital - Muncy Valley Hospital
The Williamsport Hospital & Medical Center

Richard W. DeWald
Chairman of the Board

Sister Joanne Bednar
Vice Chairman

Kirby O. Smith
President & CEO

February 23, 2004

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

Dear Mr. Volavka:

Susquehanna Health System is pleased to be a participant in the PHC4's most recent CABG Report that references data from the 2002 calendar year. We thank the Council for their efforts in gathering this information and making it available for public use, thereby providing another tool for assessing healthcare providers in our Commonwealth.

The data contained in this report reflects the historical efforts of our cardiac surgery team to provide high quality care and excellent personal services to patients throughout northcentral Pennsylvania. Furthermore, Susquehanna Health System has achieved quality medical outcomes with charges that remain below the state average for hospitals performing heart surgery.

We recognize the PHC4 CABG Report as one component of Susquehanna Health System's ongoing, comprehensive program evaluation process. We encourage the public to familiarize themselves with the limitations of this data, as well as to be proactive in learning more about the performance of Pennsylvania's heart surgery programs.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Kirby O. Smith", is written over the typed name and title.

Kirby O. Smith
President / CEO