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Medical Center

University of Pittsburgh Physicians
Department of Surgery

Division of Cardiothoracic
Surgery

February 27, 2004

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

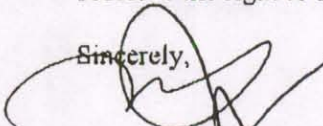
Dear Mr Volavka:

I reviewed the final results of the analysis completed by the Pennsylvania Health Care Cost Containment Council (PHC4) on CABG surgery performed by myself (Marco Zenati M.D.) in 2002, sent to me for review and comments by Amy Miller, Director HIM Department at UPMC Shadyside Campus in Pittsburgh.

The number of cases included in the in-hospital mortality analysis under the column with heading: "Results for this surgeon at UPMC Presbyterian only" lists 45 CABG surgeries; under the column: "Aggregate results for this surgeon **across all facilities**" the same number of 45 CABG is listed; an asterisk next to this heading explains to the reader that "for surgeons with cases in multiple hospitals, this column reflects the **total figure, across all hospitals, in which they performed CABG surgery**". This statement is inaccurate and misleading, as well as damaging of my reputation in Pennsylvania. In 2002, in addition to the 45 CABG surgeries I performed at UPMC Presbyterian, I performed **91 CABG surgeries** at the Veterans Administration's Pittsburgh Healthcare System (VAPHCS), University Drive Division, where I serve as Chief of Cardiac Surgery under a contract between my employer, University of Pittsburgh Physicians (UPP) and the VAPHCS. PHC4 has failed to include these CABG surgeries in the column with heading: "Aggregate results for this surgeon across all facilities". In doing so, PHC4 misrepresents me as a "low volume" surgeon with referring physicians and with the public, damaging my reputation in the State where I practice.

I demand that PHC4 includes all my CABG surgeries for 2002 in the analysis ($N=45 + 91 = 136$). I strongly object to the publication of the results of the PHC4 analysis without these changes and I reserve the right to seek reparation for any damages caused by PHC4 actions.

Sincerely,


Marco A. Zenati, M.D.
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Chief of Cardiac Surgery, VAPHCS
Director, Minimally Invasive Cardiac Surgery and Robotics

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