



**ALLEGHENY
GENERAL HOSPITAL**

WEST PENN ALLEGHENY HEALTH SYSTEM

530 EAST NORTH AVENUE, PITTSBURGH, PA 15212-4772
412-359-3131

February 25, 2005

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

Dear Mr. Volavka,

Allegheny General Hospital would like to thank the Pennsylvania Health Care Cost Containment Council for the invitation to review and comment on the results of the calendar year 2003 report on coronary artery bypass data. The Department of Cardiovascular and Thoracic Surgery at Allegheny works closely with the Allegheny Performance Improvement / Atlas group to maintain the highest quality of information management to support our process analysis initiatives.

As active participants in regional and national outcomes projects, including the Pittsburgh Regional Healthcare Initiative, Allegheny General Hospital supports the work of the PHC4 in the release of the 2003 coronary artery bypass results. As in the past, this report will be a significant contribution to our continued success in excellence of patient care.

We appreciate the opportunity to comment on this important, ongoing process and remain committed to working closely with the Council, as we have in the past.

Sincerely,



George J. Magovern, Jr. M.D.
Chair, Department of Cardiovascular and Thoracic Surgery



Connie M. Cibrone,
President and Chief Executive Officer

cc: Frank G. Delisi, Chief Operating Officer
Duke Rupert, Vice President, Operations
Kathleen Simpson, Academic Specialist, Cardiac Surgery
Pamela Zajdel, CPIHQ; PHC4 CABG Contact