



MERCY HOSPITAL, SCRANTON
MERCY HOSPITAL, WILKES-BARRE
MERCY HEALTH CARE CENTER
MERCY SPECIAL CARE HOSPITAL
MERCY MANAGED CARE, INC.
MERCY MED - CARE, INC.
MERCY HOME HEALTH /
MERCY HOSPICE

E. DONALD KOTCHICK, M.D.
VICE PRESIDENT MEDICAL AFFAIRS

MERCY HOSPITAL
716 JEFFERSON AVENUE
SCRANTON, PENNSYLVANIA 18501

TELEPHONE: 570-348-7015
FAX: 570-348-7630
E-MAIL: edkotchick@mhs-nepa.com

March 2, 2005

Marc P. Volavka
Executive Director
Pennsylvania Health Care Cost Containment Council
225 Market Street, Suite 400
Harrisburg, PA 17010

Dear Mr. Volvaka,

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on the 2003 Coronary Artery Bypass Graft Surgery Report. Mercy Hospital Scranton its Clinical Teams and Administration thank the Pennsylvania Health Care Cost Containment Council for the information provided in the report.

Mercy Hospital Scranton is proud of its' overall performance in the areas of quality care, outcomes and cost. We feel the results outlined in this report are a testament to our commitment to providing a high quality open heart surgery program within the community we serve. Mercy hospital maintains an active Quality program in which the Hospital, physicians and staff work collaboratively to evaluate and continually improve the care to our patients. The data collected by PHC4 is a component of this review process, along with national data that is used to benchmark our performance.

Mercy Hospital Scranton is dedicated to providing the highest quality of care possible for all our patients and offer our continued support to the Council's efforts to provide meaningful data which will assist us in meeting this goal.

Sincerely,

E. Donald Kotchick, M.D.
Vice President Medical Affairs