

The Reading Hospital and Medical Center



March 1, 2005

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

Dear Mr. Volavka:

The Reading Hospital and Medical Center appreciates the opportunity to comment on the 2003 PHC4 CABG Report that will be released in mid-March.

After review of the mortality cases within thirty days of the date of the CABG procedure, it is our opinion that the cause of death in two cases is unrelated to the CABG procedure, which results in an overstatement of our true mortality rate.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment.

Sincerely,

Marshall M. Feaster, M.D.
Chief, Section of Cardiothoracic Surgery

Robert A. Brigham, M.D.
Chair, Department of Surgery