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

Dear Mr Volavka:

Please note that in the Pennsylvania's Guide to Coronary Artery Bypass Graft Surgery (CABG) 2003, you only included 23 CABG cases I operated at UPMC Presbyterian Hospital; however, in 2003 I also operated on 137 CABG patients at the Veterans Affairs Pittsburgh Hospital with a 30-day mortality of 0.8% and an observed versus expected (O/E) ratio of 0.4 as reported in the VA's Continuous Improvement in Cardiac Surgery Program (CICSP) Report.

**The total volume of CABG I operated in 2003 is therefore 160 (for comparison, the average number of CABG surgery per surgeon in 2002 was 130).**

I urge you to include **all** CABG surgeries done in Pennsylvania in your future reports and not only those CABG cases that PHC4 has the ability to capture, as the public should be informed of the actual volume of cases performed, if your Guide wants to be useful and fair.

With my best personal regards,

Marco A. Zenati, M.D.  
Associate Professor of Surgery  
University of Pittsburgh  
Chief, Division of Cardiac Surgery  
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