



February 8, 2006

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

Dear Mr. Volavka:

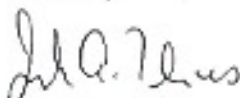
We appreciate the opportunity to comment on the Coronary Artery Bypass Graft Report that will be released to the public in late February or early March. We are proud of the cardiac program at Holy Spirit Hospital. Our program is four years old and continues to serve the patients in our community with state of the art technology, skilled cardiologists and cardiovascular surgeons and well-trained, caring nursing personnel. The 2003 Coronary Artery Bypass Report noted that Holy Spirit Hospital experienced 1 death in the 151 bypass procedures performed.

In calendar year 2004, we performed 247 bypass cases and had eight deaths. We strive to ensure a high standard of care and are saddened by any peri-operative cardiac death. To that end, the Chief of Cardiovascular Surgery reviews all mortalities to ensure our program provides high quality care and is focused on patient safety.

We have engaged separate outside agencies to conduct a comprehensive quality review of our cardiac surgery program, patient care as well as a review of the clinical documentation. Holy Spirit Hospital participates in the American College of Cardiology (ACC) database. Results from the ACC for Risk Adjusted Mortality among patients receiving Percutaneous Coronary Intervention in the second quarter of 2005 showed that Holy Spirit Hospital ranked in the 76th percentile with a mortality of less than 1%.

Holy Spirit Hospital supports continued quality and performance initiatives in the cardiac program. We are reviewing the clinical documentation in the peri-operative period to ensure the information supports the severity adjustments for our patients. We will strive to meet and exceed the expectations of the patients we serve and look forward to working with PHC4 to achieve that end.

Sincerely,


Joseph Torchia, M. D.
Chief Medical Officer

JAT/jkt—Volavka—02-08-2006