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August 22, 2008

David H. Wilderman
Acting Executive Director
Pennsylvania Health Care Cost Containment Council
225 Market Street, Suite 400
Harrisburg, PA 17101

Dear Mr. Wilderman:

On behalf of Hahnemann University Hospital, we would like to thank you for the opportunity for comment on the PHC4 2005-2006 Cardiac Surgery in Pennsylvania Report.

As part of the Hahnemann University Hospital performance improvement initiatives we had conducted an internal review of our 2005-2006 Cardiac Surgery outcomes data prior to this release.

Upon review of the individual cases we identified a population with significant co-morbidities identifying an opportunity to improve our documentation to more accurately reflect the risk profiles of our patients. Using the Society of Thoracic Surgeons database and predictive indices we focused our efforts specifically in a systematic quality improvement initiative resulting in outcomes better than predicted and in line with peer data for the more current 2007 period. Actual results for 2007 indicate a mortality rate of 2.0% with an O/E ratio of 0.97.

We are committed to providing the highest level of quality care here at Hahnemann University Hospital and we appreciate the opportunity to comment on these cases.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'G. Amrom'.

George Amrom, M.D.
Vice President, Medical Affairs
Hahnemann University Hospital

