



August 22, 2008

Ms. Flossie Wolf
Acting Deputy Executive Director
Pennsylvania Health Care Cost Containment Council
225 Market Street, Suite 400
Harrisburg, Pa. 17101

Dear Ms. Wolf,

Thank you for the opportunity to review and comment on the Pennsylvania Health Care Cost Containment Council's (PHC4) 2006 Cardiac and Valve Surgery Report. We support transparency of clinical data in healthcare and appreciate the work done by PHC4 to this end.

The report released by PHC4 on August 7, 2008 includes data on cardiac/valve surgery from 2005 and 2006. The 2005 data is historical and includes several surgeons who no longer practice at Holy Spirit Hospital. The data on the cardiac surgeons currently practicing at Holy Spirit Hospital shows results that are comparable to cardiac surgeons across the state.

Holy Spirit Hospital participates in the Society for Thoracic Surgery (STS) National Database. In the most recent STS Composite Quality Rating (period ending 12/31/07), which rates cardiac surgery programs in five key clinical parameters, Holy Spirit achieved scores that are at or above the STS Mean Participant Scores.

We continue to work collaboratively with the cardiovascular surgeons, through an exclusive practice arrangement, to provide high quality care. Partnering with physicians promotes more timely and effective performance improvement. As a community healthcare institution, Holy Spirit Hospital strives to provide quality healthcare to the people we serve.

Sincerely,

Joseph A. Torchia, MD
Chief Medical Officer