



St. Christopher's Hospital for Children
160 East Erie Avenue
Philadelphia, PA 19134
215-427-5000
www.stchristophershospital.com

May 2, 2017

Joseph Martin, Executive Director
Pennsylvania Health Care Cost Containment Council
225 Market Street, Suite 400
Harrisonburg, PA 17101

Dear Mr. Martin,

St. Christopher's Hospital for Children is pleased to participate in the PHC4's second Pediatric and Congenital Heart Surgery report and recognizes that using comparable data is imperative to improving outcomes and quality across the industry. When reporting on pediatric congenital heart surgery, it is important to understand that congenital heart surgery data is difficult to compare as every pediatric patient, even those requiring the same procedure, can have multiple co-morbid conditions and risk factors impacting the patient outcome. St. Christopher's serves one of the nation's most economically-disadvantaged communities and as such we wanted to offer additional context regarding the data provided in the report.

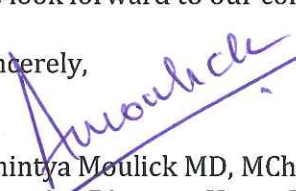
In this report, the risk adjusted operative mortality is reported in percentages. For the 10 surgical categories highlighted in the new report, 4 categories reported for St. Christopher's had mortalities. Three (3) out of the 4 reported categories with mortalities had 1 death per category and does not represent a statistical difference from the STS national average.

Specifically regarding the Coarctation of the Aorta repair, of the 20 surgeries performed for the reporting period, 17 patients had coarctation as their primary diagnosis with no mortalities. Of the 3 mortality cases reported, all had additional complex cardiac defects and the mortalities reported were not directly related to the surgery.

In the Fall 2016 report from the Society of Thoracic Surgeons (STS) which included data from July 2012-June 2016, St. Christopher's is rated as a 2-Star program and among 73.79% of all hospitals that are STS star rated.

We look forward to our continued participation in this report.

Sincerely,


Achintya Moulick MD, MCh, MBA
Executive Director, Heart Center
Chief, Cardiothoracic Surgery

cc. James B. Burke, Interim Chief Executive Officer

