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PITTSBURGH, PA 15224
412-578-5000

October 9, 2003

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

Dear Mr. Volavka:

The Western Pennsylvania Hospital is pleased to have the opportunity to comment on the Pennsylvania Health Care Cost Containment Council's 2002 Hospital Performance Report of twenty-eight selected Diagnosis Related Groups (DRGs).

At the Western Pennsylvania Hospital all deaths are reviewed as part of our continuous monitoring of the quality and safety of patient care. We are pleased with the outcome of your analysis demonstrating that the mortality rate for all twenty-eight of these DRGs was within the expected range for our institution.

Through an active Performance Improvement Program, the Hospital and Medical Staff work together continuously to evaluate and improve the care provided to our patients. We support the work of the Pennsylvania Health Care Cost Containment Council in its efforts to enhance the quality of patient care.

Sincerely yours.

James M. Collins
President and
Chief Executive Officer

Edward M. Klamon
Senior Vice President and
Chief Operating Officer

Lee Walter, M.D.
Physician Director of
Utilization Management

Marian Block, M.D.
Medical Director for
Quality