

September 16, 2009

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

Dear Mr. Wilderman:

The Western Pennsylvania Hospital has reviewed the data from the Pennsylvania Health Care Cost Containment Council's 2008 Hospital Performance Report of thirty-one selected Diagnosis Related Groups (DRGs) and is pleased to have the opportunity to comment

We have reviewed the medical records for patients with outcomes identified in the DRGs of Abnormal Heart Beat and Heart Attack – Angioplasty/Stent. All patients discharged with the diagnosis of abnormal heart beat were discharged in stable condition. We feel that appropriate care was provided to all these patients. Patients readmitted with this diagnosis were admitted with various diagnoses, often not related to the discharge diagnosis, and had many co-morbidities.

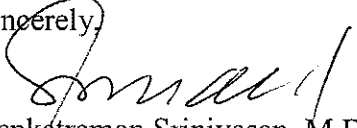
All mortalities for patients who have a heart attack with an angioplasty or stent procedure at The Western Pennsylvania Hospital are carefully reviewed and addressed by the Cardiac Catheterization Laboratory Peer Review Committee. During such review, it was determined through Committee consensus that three of the six mortalities identified in the report were not directly related to the procedure. We also believe it is important to note that these patients had multiple co-morbidities that may have contributed to their outcome.

We believe that we provide high quality care to our patients with cardiovascular disease and have been recognized for the care that we provide. In the last two years, we have received Thomson Reuter's Top 100 Hospitals for Cardiovascular Care and Highmark's Blue Distinction Center for Cardiac Care designations.

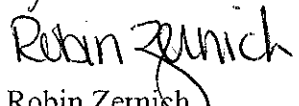
The Western Pennsylvania Hospital and its Medical Staff work continuously to evaluate and improve the care we provide to our patients. We recognize the value of transparency.

that the Hospital Performance Report provides to the public and we are committed to continuing to work with the Pennsylvania Health Care Cost Containment Council.

Sincerely,



Venkatraman Srinivasan, M.D.
Interim, Chief Division of Cardiovascular Disease



Robin Zernich
Vice President, Operations