



UPMC HEALTH SYSTEM

UPMC Presbyterian/UPMC Shadyside

UPMC Presbyterian
200 Lothrop Street
Pittsburgh, PA 15213-2582

UPMC Shadyside
5230 Centre Avenue
Pittsburgh, PA 15229

November 24, 1999

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

RE: UPMC Presbyterian 1998 HC4 Hospital Performance Report

Dear Mr. Volavka:

This letter is to provide you with our comments regarding the forthcoming publication of the Pennsylvania Health Care Cost Containment Council's Hospital Performance Report for Calendar Year 1998.

We have reviewed the data for the fifteen (15) Common Medical Procedures and Treatments and noted that the outcomes reported for our institution are well within the expected ranges. We are once again pleased with the results, which reflect the efforts of the System's Institute for Quality and Medical Management to educate and set standards for high quality of care throughout the UPMC Health system. We are also particularly glad to note that our Institution has been reported to be consistently better than the expected rates for Mortality in the treatment of Lung Cancer over the last 2 years.

Once again we would like to point out that hospital choice is more complex than an analysis of mortality and resource utilization, especially when the comparisons are made between academic medical centers and non-academic centers. However, we applaud your Council's efforts to educate the healthcare consumers in the Commonwealth.

We would like to offer to work with you in the future to improve the reports and thereby raise the public awareness to the realities of the current healthcare market.

Very truly yours,

Richard L. Simmons, M.D.
Distinguished Service Professor of Surgery
University of Pittsburgh School of Medicine
Medical Director, UPMC Health System

Cc: Henry A. Mordoh
President,
UPMC Presbyterian/UPMC Shadyside