

620 HOWARD AVENUE
ALTOONA, PA 16601-4899

814/946-2223
Fax 814/946-7808



JAMES W. BARNER
PRESIDENT/CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER

December 1, 1999

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

Dear Mr. Volavka:

Altoona Hospital is in receipt of the 1998 Hospital Performance Report - 15 Common Medical Procedures and Treatments.

Owing to internal data processing difficulties, Altoona Hospital was unable to capture clinical data in a timely fashion during calendar year 1998. For this reason, Altoona Hospital data are not represented in the report. The Hospital was able to resolve those difficulties by January 1, 1999, and has been in compliance with the data requirements throughout 1999.

We understand that the Pennsylvania Health Care Cost Containment Council has a prodigious task of analyzing twelve months of data for the entire state and that this task can only be started when the data have been submitted. If the Council is to get its work done in a timely fashion, they must set and abide by objective deadlines.

For almost a year, Altoona Hospital has demonstrated compliance with the reporting deadlines. We look forward to the conclusion of the next reporting period when we can once again be a part of a process, which we believe will promote improving healthcare throughout the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania.

Sincerely,

James W. Barner
President/Chief Executive Officer

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