



# UPMC HEALTH SYSTEM

*Corporate Medical Management*

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November 24, 1999

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

Dear Mr. Volavka:

**RE: Hospital Performance Report for Calendar Year 1998.**

This letter is a response on behalf of the hospitals of the UPMC Health System. We support the Council's efforts to measure and assess quality that we ourselves emphasize within our system. We have made a significant investment in developing an infrastructure to further continuous quality improvement throughout the continuum of care that we provide within our Health system.

We are gratified by the results shown in your report this year and believe that these reflect the efforts of our institutions to provide premier quality care.

However, we point out that hospital choice and clinical outcomes of care are more complex than an analysis of mortality and resource utilization. As a system we would therefore welcome an opportunity to work with the council to further improve efforts to raise the awareness of the consumers of healthcare in the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania.

Very truly yours,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Richard L. Simmons".

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

Cc: Jeffrey Romoff  
President  
UPMC Health System