



# UPMC HEALTH SYSTEM

*UPMC Presbyterian/UPMC Shadyside*

UPMC Presbyterian  
200 Lothrop Street  
Pittsburgh, PA 15213-2582

December 9, 2002

UPMC Shadyside  
5230 Centre Avenue  
Pittsburgh, PA 15232

Mr. Marc P. Volavka, Executive Director  
Pennsylvania Health Care Cost Containment  
225 Market Street, suite 400  
Harrisburg, PA 17101

Dear Mr. Volavka,

This letter is written in anticipation of the publication of the Pennsylvania Health Care Cost Containment Council's report on Hospital Performance for Calendar year 2001 and Web site display. UPMC Presbyterian hospital medical and administrative leadership has reviewed the data and is on the whole pleased with the results, which reflect our system wide organizational response to providing high quality care for a diverse and complex population of patients.

While we applaud your efforts to educate consumers regarding outcomes and cost, we do emphasize that data aggregation in health care is very complex and performance reports must be customized to fit the population served. The high-risk population served by this quaternary care facility may be considerably sicker than portrayed by the admission severity score used to analyze the data.

We would welcome opportunities to work with you to improve these reports and thereby help in raising the public awareness regarding regional and statewide health care challenges.

Sincerely,

Richard L. Simmons, MD  
Distinguished Professor of Surgery  
Chairman Emeritus, Department of Surgery  
University of Pittsburgh School of Medicine