



October 15, 2003

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

Dear Mr. Volavka:

Allegheny General Hospital would like to thank the Pennsylvania Health Care Cost Containment Council for the invitation to review and comment on the Federal Fiscal Year 2002 data, which will be included in the annual Hospital Performance Report. We appreciate the opportunity to access hospital effectiveness benchmarks, which address the care delivery systems within our institution.

Through our continuous efforts to enhance performance improvement initiatives, we utilize this information in conjunction with additional data to monitor the quality of our patient care. In the current report, the data indicates that we have a higher than expected mortality rating under the *Hip Fracture – Surgical Repair* category. We believe that it is important to note that in each instance, these patients had multiple co-morbid conditions that contributed significantly to the outcome of each case. In addition, each case has been reviewed through the internal Peer Review process and was found to meet the appropriate standards of care. We also believe that it is worthy of mention that there have been no mortalities at Allegheny General Hospital, in this same category, through the first 10 months of the Federal Fiscal Year 2003. Therefore, we feel strongly that these patients constituted an unusual grouping in time of exceptionally high-risk cases, in which their outcomes were not attributable to the surgical procedure itself, but instead, related to the increased risk associated with having multiple co-morbid conditions.

In summary, we appreciate the efforts of the Pennsylvania Health Care Cost Containment Council in taking a lead role in comparing hospital performance, and we will continue to strive toward improving the quality of patient care at Allegheny General Hospital.

Sincerely,



Connie Cibrone
President & CEO