

GOOD 
SAMARITAN
Cardiac & Vascular Center

April 20, 2011

Joseph Martin
Executive Director
Pennsylvania Health Care Cost Containment Council
225 Market Street, Suite 400
Harrisburg, Pennsylvania 17101

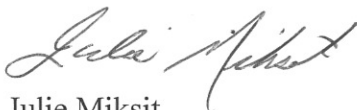
Dear Mr. Martin;

On behalf of The Good Samaritan Hospital of Lebanon, Pennsylvania, we would like to thank you for the opportunity to comment on the Pennsylvania Health Care Cost Containment Council's Report on CABG and Valve Surgery for 2008-09.

All open heart mortalities are reviewed by our Cardiovascular Peer Review Medical Staff Committee for evaluation of medical care. Additionally, mortalities are reviewed at various cardiovascular steering and performance improvement committees to determine opportunities for improvement in process or structure. All of the cases in this report were reviewed by staff and medical staff and were found to have no quality concerns or trends. The mortality rating resulted from a low volume and an elderly population with many co-morbidities.

In addition, we participate with, and receive, high scores from the Society of Thoracic Surgeons. A higher than expected mortality is not anticipated to be a trend in any of the open heart categories on an ongoing basis.

Respectfully submitted,



Julie Miksit
Vice President, Cardiovascular Services & Rehab Therapies
The Good Samaritan Hospital of Lebanon, Pennsylvania

JM/blf

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