

## **Transparency**

Consumers who want to compare treatment options based on cost and quality have few sources of information. Some states collect and analyze quality and cost data on health care services and publish report cards. More than half of all states are publicly reporting quality and/or patient safety data<sup>i</sup> and 37 states have mandatory inpatient hospital reporting systems.<sup>ii</sup> However, recent research has called into question the effectiveness of report cards in improving the quality of care.<sup>iii</sup>

The Pennsylvania Health Care Cost Containment Council has been collecting and analyzing patient safety and quality data for state residents since 1986. The Council was created by the state to help reduce skyrocketing health care costs by providing consumers with comparative information about the most effective health care options available and giving providers comparative information creating opportunities to improve care. The Council has published hundreds of reports covering topics including cardiac surgery, insurance mandates, hospital-acquired infections and comparing the quality of Pennsylvania's HMOs, all available to the public, at [www.phc4.org](http://www.phc4.org).

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<sup>i</sup> C Hess, et. al., States' Roles in Shaping High Performance Health Systems, Commonwealth Fund, April 2008.

<sup>ii</sup> R. Steinbrook, Public Report Cards – Cardiac Surgery and Beyond, *New Engl J Med* 355:1847-1849, November 2, 2006.

<sup>iii</sup> J. Tu, et. al., Effectiveness of Public Report Cards for Improving the Quality of Cardiac Care, *JAMA*, 302:2330-2337, Nov. 18, 2009.