

Courtney Avery  
Administrator  
Illinois Health Facilities and Services Review Board  
525 W Jefferson Street, 2<sup>nd</sup> Floor  
Springfield, IL 62761

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HEALTH FACILITIES &  
SERVICES REVIEW BOARD

Re: Project # 11-024- US Renal Care Oak Brook

July 20, 2011.

Dear Ms. Avery:

I am a practicing Nephrologist in Downers Grove, IL for last 30 years. I am also the Medical Director of the Downers Grove Dialysis Clinic since it is in its present location and earlier performed the same role in its previous location in Lombard. I am writing to oppose the granting of a CON for Project # 11-024.

Downers Grove Dialysis Clinic is an FMC clinic and I pride myself in the excellent care and quality of dialysis provided in the facility. This is a 100 + patient clinic located on the campus of Good Samaritan Hospital, Downers Grove. Drs. Rauf and Ahmed have been working in this area and having their patients receive dialysis in Downers Grove Clinic without any difficulty that I have been aware of. I have a good working relationship with them. Drs. Rauf and Ahmed are grossly misrepresenting the quality of care provided in FMC Dialysis Clinics and overstating any difficulty in getting patients access to the clinics. I have been involved in the supervision and decision-making involved in day to day functioning of the Downers Grove Clinic and intake of new patients on a daily basis as Medical director.

Downers Grove Clinic is an open facility and as such any Nephrologist can refer patients for Dialysis there. Drs. Rauf and Ahmed are part of the Medical Staff .

The patient's Nephrologist initiates the process of admission of new patients to Dialysis clinic. Most of the time this is done by a hospital Social Worker. FMC has a very streamlined system, which gives a response about acceptance within usually 2 working days or at times less, once necessary information has been submitted. This includes patient's medical history, status, and Hepatitis serology results among other things. I do not remember

any instance in all the years I have been a Director that this process was delayed inordinately. If the patient is already being dialyzed in another Facility and wishes a transfer it can be a longer period.

As to the quality of care at FMC Downers Grove Dialysis Clinic, the arterio-venous fistula rates, adequacy of hemodialysis, anemia management, and metabolic bone disease management all are among upper level in our nation. Our AV Fistula rate is at 60 % and Adequacy at 95 % plus regularly placing us among the best units in the Network and the country. Our patient satisfaction is very high as well and there is opportunity for patients to approach myself or other staff at any time with any difficulties.

FMC Clinics also provide the options of In-Center Hemodialysis, Home Hemodialysis, as well as Peritoneal Dialysis. Alternative choice of facility is available in form of DaVita Dialysis Services.

With the opening of a new Dialysis Clinic in Lombard within the last month and presence of available spots in Downers Grove Dialysis, Westchester Dialysis, Villa Park Dialysis, Willowbrook Dialysis Clinics within 15 minutes driving or less from Oak Brook, there is really no need for yet another dialysis clinic in this area.

I hope that the Board will take in to consideration my opinion and that of other members of the Nephrology community in its decision. I appreciate the time and effort that the members of the Review Board are investing in this decision.

Sincerely,



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