

Roate, George

From: Anne Cooper [ACooper@Polsinelli.com]
Sent: Friday, January 27, 2012 1:38 PM
To: Roate, George
Subject: Regional Surgicenter (Proj. No. 11-101)
Attachments: XPac Support Letter (1-27-2012).pdf

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HEALTH FACILITIES &
SERVICES REVIEW BOARD

George,

Attached please find a support letter for Regional Surgicenter CON application (Proj. No. 11-101)

If you have any questions or comments, please feel free to contact me.

Anne



Anne M. Cooper
Attorney

161 N. Clark Street
Suite 4200
Chicago, IL 60601

tel: 312.873.3606
fax: 312.873.2957

acooper@polsinelli.com
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**HEALTH FACILITIES &
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January 27, 2012

Dale Galassie, Chairman
Illinois Health Facilities and Services Review Board
525 W. Jefferson Street, Second Floor
Springfield, IL 62761

Illinois Health Facilities and Services Review Board:

I am the owner and founder of XPAC, a local employer of over 2,000 employees in the Illinois Quad-Cities since 1974. Regional Surgicenter has an excellent and long-standing reputation in the community for providing the best and most cost efficient outpatient surgical care. This provider and its staff have always been exceptionally professional and have provided the best possible care. In all these years, I can honestly say that not one employee has ever complained about the treatment rendered by Regional Surgicenter. Unfortunately, this cannot be said about the entire network of providers. In fact, myself and members of my immediate family, have received extraordinary care at Regional Surgicenter. I urge the Illinois Health Facilities and Services Review Board to approve the CON permit application of Regional Surgicenter. A full service surgical/operating center at the Regional Surgicenter in Moline will be a great health care asset for both the people and companies of the Quad-Cities community.

Business owners and employees can add rising insurance costs to the already growing list of challenges they face in tough economic times. According to a recent report by the Commonwealth Fund, a private foundation that supports independent research on health care reform, insurance premiums have increased by 50% over the past eight years (2003 to 2010) for employees and employers alike. To help cover these rising costs, employers asked employees to pay an additional 63% toward their insurance costs during that period.

From a patient's standpoint, they would be treated quicker and be more familiar and comfortable receiving all of their care at the same location versus surgery at a hospital and follow up care at a physician's office. Having all of the care centralized will result in an event greater level of success and it would be more cost effective.

From an employer's, an insurer's and patient standpoint, the cost savings is substantial. The lower costs would result in lower insurance rates and higher profit margins for employers, which would make Illinois a more business friendly state.

Please know that I would not be comfortable recommending approval of a CON permit to just any medical provider. Over the years, the group associated with Regional Surgicenter

has consistently demonstrated the highest level of care and professionalism and has earned my complete and total respect. They are deserving of approval of this CON permit and it will provide quality and cost benefits at a number of levels.

Regional Surgicenter is conveniently located for most people living in the Illinois Quad-Cities. Currently, patients who want to receive care at an ambulatory surgery center often have to travel to Iowa, as do their physicians. This lack of availability of services has led many of our employees to relocate to the Iowa Quad-Cities. This can create ripple effects leading to lack of growth in local company's ability to increase employment opportunities in the Illinois Quad-Cities.

I have been impressed over the years with the quality of care and outcomes at Regional Surgicenter. Over the past 20 years, it has grown in scope of services provided, yet still cannot provide the full range of outpatient surgical services. Regional Surgicenter has developed streamlined care and reduced the cost of the procedures that were previously done at hospitals or in Iowa with all of the associated expenses, delays and red tape of those other scenarios.

Out-of-pocket costs for premiums and care are consuming a larger share of people's incomes at a time when incomes are down and workers are paying more for less financial protection. The increase in the cost of insurance occurred at a rate that has outpaced income growth in Illinois over the last eight years.

In my opinion a full service surgical/operating center at the Regional Surgicenter in Moline will be an asset to the health care community in general but will be a significant cost benefit and convenience to the employers of the Quad Cities and their efforts to control ever increasing medical insurance costs.

In my experience and by reputation, Regional Surgicenter provides the highest quality of care and service. The atmosphere is professional and conducive to the provision of high quality services to patients and gives confidence to the employers. As a local employer and resident of the Illinois Quad-Cities, I urge the Illinois Health Facilities and Services Review Board to approve the CON permit application of Regional Surgicenter.

Sincerely,



Donald Ruggles
Chief Executive Officer
XPAC
525 East 10th Avenue
Milan, IL 61264

Roate, George

From: Anne Cooper [ACooper@Polsinelli.com]
Sent: Friday, January 27, 2012 4:24 PM
To: Roate, George
Subject: Regional Surgicenter (Proj. No. 11-101)
Attachments: Attaluri Support Letter (1-27-2012).pdf; Fiscella Support Letter (01-27-2012).pdf

George,

Attached please find two support letters for Regional Surgicenter (Proj. No. 11-101). Please let me know if you have any questions.

Anne

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HEALTH FACILITIES &
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Anne M. Cooper
Attorney

161 N. Clark Street
Suite 4200
Chicago, IL 60601

tel: 312.873.3606
fax: 312.873.2957

acooper@polsinelli.com
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**ELECTRONIC MAIL
UNITED STATES MAIL**

Mr. Dale Galassie
Chair
Illinois Health Facilities and Services Review
Board
525 West Jefferson Street, 2nd Floor
Springfield, Illinois 62761

Re: Regional Surgicenter - Proj. No. 11-101

Dear Mr. Galassie:

I am a neurogastroenterologist practicing in the Illinois Quad Cities and I am the director of the Heartland Center for Motility, which treats patients with digestive disorders. Functional digestive disorders affect up to twenty percent of the American population. Our Motility Center utilizes the latest technology, which is not generally available outside of academic medical centers, to diagnose patients with acid reflux disease, incontinence, and lactose, fructose, and fructan intolerance. Through accurate testing and analysis, we can make timely recommendations for treatment.

In the Motility Clinic for certain types of cases, the ENT physicians and gastroenterologists work as a multidisciplinary team. This is specifically with respect to acid reflux as characterized by abnormal regurgitation of stomach acids into the esophagus. Frequent reflux of stomach acids causes inflammation and damage to the lining of the esophagus, resulting in various ENT issues including chronic cough, hoarseness, difficulty in swallowing, reoccurring sore throat, nausea, choking sensation, chest pain, and heartburn. While mild cases of acid reflux may be treated with medication and lifestyle changes, severe cases require surgery.

The standard surgical procedure for treating acid reflux is fundoplication, which is usually conducted by minimally invasive, laparoscopy techniques to repair the lower esophageal sphincter to prevent future acid reflux and irritation to the esophageal lining. Regional Surgicenter currently has the equipment to perform this surgical procedure. Importantly, no surgery center in the Illinois Quad Cities offers ENT services. Therefore, patients must either travel to Iowa for this procedure or have the procedure performed in a more costly hospital setting. The addition of ENT to Regional Surgicenter will allow my patients suffering from severe acid reflux to receive treatment in a high quality, cost effective setting close to home.

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**HEALTH FACILITIES &
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545 Valley View Drive
Moline, IL 61265

309.762.5560 phone
309.762.7351 fax

www.HeartlandQC.com

I fully support Regional Surgicenter's application to add ENT to its existing surgery center.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Ashok Attaluri", written over a horizontal line.

Ashok Attaluri, M.D.
Heartland Center for Motility
545 Valley View Drive
Moline, Illinois 61265



**TRINITY REGIONAL
HEALTH SYSTEM**

IOWA HEALTH SYSTEM

Trinity Family Medicine

600 JOHN DEERE ROAD, SUITE 401
MOLINE, IL 61265
309-779-4950
FAX 309-779-4905

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HEALTH FACILITIES &
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January 27, 2012

Dale Galassie, Chairman
Illinois Health Facilities and Services Review Board
525 W. Jefferson Street, Second Floor
Springfield, IL 62761

Illinois Health Facilities and Services Review Board:

I am a Family Practice physician practicing in the Illinois Quad-Cities for greater than 30 years. Over that time I have referred many patients to Regional Surgicenter for outpatient surgical services with excellent results and patient satisfaction regardless of the patient's ability to pay. In fact, myself and members of my immediate family have received exceptional care at Regional Surgicenter. I support Regional Surgicenter's multi-specialty CON application. A full service surgical/operating center at the Regional Surgicenter in Moline will be a great health care asset for the Quad-Cities community.

No ambulatory surgery center in the Illinois Quad-Cities performs a fully array of outpatient surgical services. Regional Surgicenter center is conveniently located for most people living in the Illinois Quad-Cities. Currently, with the exception of a few limited specialties, physicians who want to perform surgery in an ambulatory surgery center have to leave the state to do surgeries in Iowa. Their Illinois patients also have to leave the state. Not only is this inconvenient for physicians as practicing in both states requires additional licensure and credentialing at additional hospitals and facilities, but patients are placed under the additional burden of travel during a time of illness. Many our patients cannot find or afford transportation to ambulatory surgical centers in the Iowa Quad-Cities. When an ambulatory procedure requires hospital admission due to a complication or unforeseen medical issue, these patients are then transferred to Iowa hospitals and since I do not practice in Iowa, I am not able to care for them during their inpatient stay. Illinois based physicians are forced to take patients to Iowa surgery centers for procedures in Urology, Gynecology, ENT and other specialties, as there currently does not exist a surgery center in the Illinois Quad-Cities providing these services. This is adversely effecting the recruitment and retainment of quality specialists in these fields in the Illinois Quad-Cities. Illinois Public Aid is not accepted at local Iowa surgical centers, causing the indigent to be excluded from care at these facilities, while at

the same time, Regional Surgicenter provides services for many IPA patients, but currently cannot provide care in many needed specialties.

ENT procedures are routinely performed in surgery centers rather than hospitals. They are some of the most common ambulatory surgical procedures. Surgery centers provide high quality surgical care, excellent outcomes, and high level of patient satisfaction at a lower cost than hospital outpatient departments. Surgery centers provide patients with more flexible scheduling options and shorter wait times than hospitals. Moreover, surgery centers don't treat patients who have known infectious diseases.

Regional Surgicenter has an excellent and long-standing reputation in the community for providing the best and most cost efficient surgical care. Over the past 20 years, it has grown in scope of services provided yet still cannot provide the full range of outpatient surgical services. Regional Surgicenter has developed streamlined care and reduced the cost of the procedures that were previously done at hospitals or in Iowa with all of the associated expenses, delays and red tape of those other scenarios.

In my experience and by reputation, Regional Surgicenter provides the highest quality of care and service. The atmosphere is professional and conducive to the provision of high quality services to patients. A full service surgical/operating center at the Regional Surgicenter in Moline will be an asset to the health care community. I urge the Illinois Health Facilities and Services Review Board to approve the CON permit application of Regional Surgicenter.

Sincerely,



Ronald B. Fiscella, M.D.
Trinity Family Medicine
600 John Deere Road
Suite 401
Moline, IL 61265

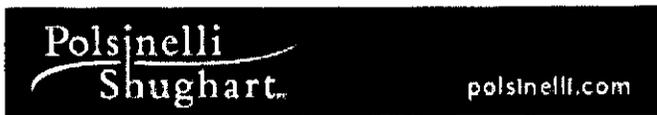
Roate, George

From: Anne Cooper [ACooper@Polsinelli.com]
Sent: Monday, January 30, 2012 11:05 AM
To: Roate, George
Subject: Regional Surgicenter Proj. No. 11-101
Attachments: Franklin Support Letter (1-30-2012).pdfa.pdf

George,

Please find a letter from Franklin Pediatrics in support of the Regional Surgicenter CON application.

Anne



Anne M. Cooper
Attorney
161 N. Clark Street
Suite 4200
Chicago, IL 60601

acooper@polsinelli.com
Add me to your address book

tel: 312.873.3606
fax: 312.873.2957

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Franklin Pediatrics, S.C.
4376 7th Street
Moline, IL 61265
Ph:(309)762-0777
Fax:(309)762-0077

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**HEALTH FACILITIES &
SERVICES REVIEW BOARD**

January 27, 2012

Dale Galassie, Chairman
Illinois Health Facilities and Services Review Board
525 W. Jefferson Street, Second Floor
Springfield, IL 62761

I am a Pediatrician practicing in the Illinois Quad-Cities for the past 30 years. Over this time, I have referred many pediatric patients for gastrointestinal care at Regional Surgicenter. These patients have received superior care regardless of their insurance or whether they are self pay or have Illinois Medicaid coverage. This care for the indigent and IPA enrollees is not widely available throughout the area, especially in the ambulatory surgical center setting. I support Regional Surgicenter's multi-specialty CON application. A full service surgical/operating center at the Regional Surgicenter in Moline will be a great health care asset for the Quad-Cities community.

No ambulatory surgery center in the Illinois Quad-Cities performs a full array of outpatient surgical services, including ENT. Regional Surgicenter center is conveniently located for most people living in the Illinois Quad-Cities. Currently, with the exception of a few limited specialties, physicians who want to perform surgery in an ambulatory surgery center have to leave the state to do surgeries in Iowa. Their Illinois patients also have to leave the state. Illinois Medicaid will not cover in Iowa or out of State so all those patients have no choice except the hospitals. This is inconvenient and practicing in both states requires the surgeons to have additional licensing and credentialing at additional hospitals and facilities.

ENT procedures are routinely performed in surgery centers rather than hospitals. They are some of the most common ambulatory surgical procedures. The ASTC setting is particularly good for pediatric patients as the environment is less intimidating than the hospital setting. Also, because Regional Surgicenter has pediatric advanced life support (PALS) trained anesthesiologists, pediatric patients will receive special monitoring while under anesthesia. Pediatric anesthesia care requires a unique set of skills, as well as an understanding of the differences between caring for an adult and a child or infant.

Surgery centers provide high quality surgical care, excellent outcomes, and high level of patient satisfaction at a lower cost than hospital outpatient departments. For example, the median charge for a tonsillectomy at one of the local hospitals is nearly \$5,000, whereas Regional Surgicenter's charge for a tonsillectomy is less than half the cost at \$2,465.

Surgery centers provide patients with more flexible scheduling options and sometimes shorter wait times than hospitals. Moreover, surgery centers don't treat patients who are known to have infectious diseases.

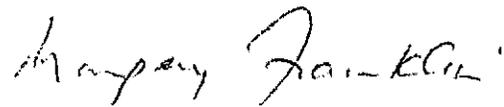
Regional Surgicenter has an excellent and long-standing reputation in the community for providing the best and most cost efficient surgical care. Over the past 20 years, it has grown in the scope of services it offers, yet still cannot provide the full range of outpatient surgical services. Regional Surgicenter has developed streamlined care and reduced the cost of the procedures that were previously done at hospitals or in Iowa.

In my experience and by reputation, Regional Surgicenter provides the highest quality of care and service. The atmosphere is professional and conducive to the provision of high quality services to

patients.

A full service surgical/operating center at the Regional Surgicenter in Moline will be an asset to the health care community. I urge the Illinois Health Facilities and Services Review Board to approve the CON permit application of Regional Surgicenter.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Margery Franklin".

Margery H. Franklin, M.D.
Franklin Pediatrics, S.C.