



# Illinois Kidney Disease & Hypertension Center

**RECEIVED**

MAY 17 2012

HEALTH FACILITIES &  
SERVICES REVIEW BOARD

Nephrology Associates  
 Frederick Horvath, Jr., M.D.  
 Phillip J. Olson, M.D., F.A.C.P.  
 Robert T. Sparrow, M.D.  
 Benjamin R. Pflederer, M.D.  
 David C. Rosborough, M.D.  
 Timothy A. Pflederer, M.D.  
 Paul T. Dreyer, M.D.  
 Gordon W. James, M.D.  
 Andrew C. Bland, M.D., F.A.A.P., F.A.C.P.  
 Robert Bruha, M.D.  
 Samer B. Sader, M.D.  
 Anthony R. Horinek, M.D.  
 Alexander J. Alonso, M.D.  
 Robert A. Pflederer, M.D. - Emeritus  
 R. Kent Bryan, M.D. - Emeritus

May 15, 2012

Via Email and U.S. Mail

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

Surgery Associates  
 Beverley L. Ketel, M.D.  
 Timothy P. O'Connor, M.D., F.A.C.S.

Physician Assistants  
 Julie A. DeSutter, P.A.-C.  
 Holly R. Walker, P.A.-C.

Re: Opposition to Project 12-004

Nurse Practitioners  
 Tonya K. McDougall, M.S.N., F.N.P.  
 Karen A. Helfers, M.S.N., F.N.P.  
 Cheryl M. Wiemer, M.S.N., F.N.P.  
 Judith A. Dansizen, A.P.R.N.-B.C.

Dear Ms. Avery:

Administrator  
 Beth A. Shaw, MBA

200 E. Pennsylvania Ave., Suite 212  
 Peoria, IL 61603  
 Office 309.676.8123  
 Fax 309.676.8455

1404 Eastland Drive, Suite 103  
 Bloomington, IL 61701  
 Office 309.663.4766  
 Fax 309.663.7238

2355 Broadway Rd.  
 Pekin, IL 61554

1100 E. Norris Drive  
 Ottawa, IL 61350

501 E. Grant St.  
 Macomb, IL 61455

920 West Street  
 Medical Office Building, Suite 212  
 Peru, IL 61354

Perry Memorial Hospital  
 530 Park Avenue East, Suite 306  
 Princeton, IL 61356

107 Tremont Street  
 Hopedale, IL 61741

Graham Hospital  
 210 W. Walnut  
 1st Floor, Outpatient Clinic  
 Canton, IL 61520

1315 Memorial Drive  
 Outpatient Clinic  
 Mendota, IL 61342

205 South Park  
 Sreator, IL 61364

RenalCare Associates is an independent physician practice with 12 nephrologists and 2 surgeons with offices located throughout Central Illinois. On behalf of our practice, we are writing to respond to the comments of Drs. Usman and Shakaib regarding the North Pekin dialysis facility project 12-004. These physicians oppose the establishment of a Fresenius Medical Care (FMC) facility because they would prefer to compete in a facility which they own and operate. They make several arguments in their letters of opposition which we feel must be addressed.

Drs. Usman and Shakaib both have full privileges to provide care for dialysis patients in the Pekin and Peoria Fresenius dialysis facilities. As physicians caring for patients, they are important members of the medical staff and have significant opportunity to impact the quality of care these facilities provide. While RenalCare Associates and Kidney Health Care are competing physician practices, we each work within Fresenius dialysis facilities restricted only by the medical staff bylaws governing good patient care. RenalCare Associates physicians have a long history of working closely with Fresenius Medical Care to oversee patient care and quality as facility Medical Directors. We anticipate continuing to serve as Medical Directors of our area dialysis facilities but have in no way restricted Drs. Usman or Shakaib from participation in the care or quality improvement process. It is entirely inaccurate for them to state that they have been "locked out of the Pekin/Peoria dialysis market".

These physicians also make statements raising concern about the quality of care provided in the Fresenius dialysis facilities. The Pekin/Peoria Fresenius facilities are a part of the North Division within Fresenius Medical Care. These and the other central Illinois facilities where we provide care work very hard to ensure



RenalCare  
 Associates, S.C.

other central Illinois facilities where we provide care work very hard to ensure that patients receive the safest and highest quality care. Dedicated managers, nurses and technicians work closely with physicians to serve a very challenging, elderly and ill patient population. These facilities consistently score high in quality outcome and patient satisfaction parameters compared to other Fresenius facilities as well as national benchmarks provided through the Forum of ESRD Networks. Indeed, the Fresenius dialysis facility at Pekin Hospital campus is in the 85<sup>th</sup> percentile of all FMC units for anemia management, 73<sup>rd</sup> percentile for phosphorus control, and 73<sup>rd</sup> percentile for limiting catheter use. We were only at the 43<sup>rd</sup> percentile within FMC for dialysis adequacy and identified that this was in part due to patients dialyzing for too short a period. We instituted policy change to ensure that all new patients dialyze a minimum of 4 hours and at least 3 times per week, unless the physician documented the patient's adequacy on a monthly basis. All members of the medical staff were given opportunity to provide input prior to implementing the policy. It is very clear that Fresenius dialysis facilities provide high quality patient care.

Dr. Shakaib strongly argues that RenalCare Associates hinders patient care through being the sole provider and even accuses us of "neglect and mistreatment" of patients. RenalCare Associates was founded in 1975 when Drs. Robert Pflederer and Kent Bryan began providing life-saving dialysis treatment with OSF St. Francis Medical Center. This cutting edge therapy was heretofore not available to dialysis patients in Central Illinois or much of the country. The number of patients suffering from chronic kidney disease has progressively grown since that time. RenalCare Associates has continued to grow and provide care in outpatient dialysis facilities owned by OSF, Midwest Kidney Centers, Renal Care Group, and Fresenius Medical Care. The 12 nephrologists and 2 surgeons of RenalCare Associates have provided compassionate and high quality dialysis, vascular access, and transplant care now for over 30 years. RenalCare Associates has been a tireless advocate for the needs of patients suffering from kidney disease working closely with the National Kidney Foundation and local patient advocacy groups related to diabetes, polycystic kidney disease, and transplantation – to name a few. Recognizing the often dire financial needs of our patients, RenalCare Associates was instrumental in the establishment of the Central Illinois Memorial Kidney Fund – a non-profit community organization that raises financial assistance for kidney patients in central Illinois. RenalCare Associates physicians hold faculty appointments at the University of Illinois College of Medicine in Peoria and are active in teaching medical students and residents as well as in research related to kidney disease. Our physicians hold leadership positions in national nephrology societies and are greatly respected in their fields. Most importantly, RenalCare Associates has a strong local community reputation as a physician practice that provides the highest quality, compassionate care to everyone in need – irrespective of their status or ability to pay. We are committed to that philosophy and business model that was established in our culture from the very beginning. Accusations to the contrary are blatantly false.

Finally, we want to point out the area that RenalCare Associates and Kidney Health Care are in complete agreement. Dr. Usman and Shakaib's opposition letters make it clear that they believe a new dialysis facility in Pekin is very important. The letter from their patient also emphasizes this point, demonstrating the frustration involved when an ill patient has to dialyze even a moderate distance from home. We strongly concur with them that a facility is needed and urge the board to approve the Fresenius Medical Care application before you. Project #12-004 is very worthy of your support.

Sincerely,

Handwritten signature of Robert T. Sparrow, MD, in black ink.

Robert T. Sparrow, MD  
President, RenalCare Associates

Handwritten signature of Timothy A. Pflederer, MD, in black ink.

Timothy A. Pflederer, MD  
President-elect, RenalCare Associates  
Medical Director, FMC Pekin dialysis facility