



ADVOCATE ILLINOIS MASONIC MEDICAL CENTER  
JOHN H. STROGER JR. HOSPITAL OF COOK COUNTY  
NORTHWESTERN MEMORIAL HOSPITAL  
UNIVERSITY OF CHICAGO MEDICAL CENTER

August 5, 2014

Ms. Courtney R. Avery  
Administrator  
Illinois Health Facilities and Services Review Board  
525 West Jefferson Street, 2nd Floor  
Springfield, Illinois 62761

**RECEIVED**

AUG 07 2014

HEALTH FACILITIES &  
SERVICES REVIEW BOARD

14-013

Re: University of Chicago Medical Center CON Application

Dear Ms. Avery:

As the medical leadership of the EMS System in the City of Chicago (Region XI), we are writing to explain how significant UCMC's recent addition of 38 medical-surgical beds has been to our EMS Region and to the patients we serve. Our joint mission is to assure that every citizen and visitor of Chicago receives prompt emergency care in an effective, efficient and timely manner from the most competent and knowledgeable EMS personnel.

Prior to the addition of these beds, overcrowding, both in UCMC's Emergency Department ("ED") and its inpatient beds, forced UCMC's ED to go on frequent diversion, which meant it was closed to ambulances, and UCMC's rates of diversion were among the highest in the State.

The addition of 38 medical-surgical beds at UCMC has resolved this problem and has been a positive for the City's EMS System.

Since the medical-surgical beds were put into use on March 31, 2014, UCMC has been able to maintain a diversion rate of approximately 1%. UCMC also went close to three months without any hours on diversion this past Spring. Overall, UCMC's rate of diversion represents an 80% improvement since 2011. At the same time, UCMC's census in the ED continues to grow.

Overwhelmingly, ED overcrowding is the result of hospital overcrowding. With the additional beds, UCMC has demonstrated it can see more patients and avoid the kind of overcrowding that leads to diverting ambulances to other hospitals. Further, because the pre-hospital and hospital components of the EMS System are integrated, when diversion at UCMC is lower, the entire EMS System, including our patients, benefits.

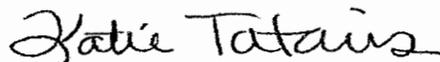
The additional medical-surgical beds at UCMC improve access to emergency medical care throughout our City, which is an important public health benefit, and we support the maintenance of this important resource for our EMS Region.

Please feel free to contact us directly at if you need additional information. Thank you very much for your attention to this issue.

Sincerely,



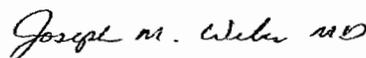
Kenneth Pearlman, MD  
Chair, Region XI EMS Medical Directors Consortium  
EMS Medical Director  
Northwestern Memorial Hospital



Katie Tataris, MD, MPH  
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