June 21, 2018

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

Re: Support Letter for Oak Meadows Dialysis, Oak Lawn - Project No. 17-068

I am the Chief Operating Officer of RML Specialty Hospital. I write in support of DaVita and DuPage Medical Group's proposal to establish a 12-station dialysis clinic in Oak Lawn.

RML is licensed as an acute care hospital in Illinois and has a Medicare designation as a long-term acute care hospital (LTCH). We are licensed for a total of 201 beds between our two locations in Hinsdale and Chicago. RML Specialty Hospital is nationally recognized as a leader for ventilator weaning, wound care, and medically complex patient rehabilitation. We are the LTCH of choice in the Chicago area and welcome referrals from over 60 hospitals.

Our hospitals serve patients suffering from catastrophic illnesses, complicated by multiple comorbidities over a broad range of diagnoses. Many of RML's patients suffer from multiple organ failure and approximately twenty percent of our patients require dialysis for renal replacement. Most patients admitted to RML arrive directly from intensive care units at short-stay acute care hospitals and more than 95% spent at least three days in an ICU. Our average length of stay is about 34 days as our patients need time to recover and build their strength and stamina.

RML Specialty Hospital has contracted with DaVita since 2010 to provide dialysis services to our patients. Throughout the years, DaVita has proven to be a valuable partner in the care we provide for our patients. DaVita's skills, knowledge, problem-solving, and collaborative approach have advanced our care and are deeply appreciated. It is reassuring to know our patients can receive the same high level of support for their chronic dialysis needs after they transition to one of DaVita's community clinics.

RML Specialty Hospital offers our enthusiastic support for the DaVita Oak Meadows Dialysis in Oak Lawn, which is well-located to serve patients from both of our hospital locations. We encourage the Illinois Health Facilities and Services Review Board to approve the proposed dialysis clinic. We know this care is greatly needed in the community as dialysis stations are becoming increasingly difficult to find.

Sincerely,

Kenneth Pawola
Chief Operating Officer
RML Specialty Hospital