

RECEIVED

SEP 19 2011

HEALTH FACILITIES &
SERVICES REVIEW BOARD

September 15, 2011

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

RE: Project No. 11-024, U.S. Renal Care Oak Brook Dialysis

Dear Ms. Avery:

I am writing to give my support for a new dialysis center in the Oak Brook / Downers Grove area. As a nephrologist in Chicago's western suburbs, it is clear to me that patients need more choice when it comes to dialysis providers. Approval of this application would deliver just that, given that U.S. Renal Care does not currently have any dialysis centers here.

During the more than two decades that I have been practicing in Elmhurst, I have seen the need for dialysis care, and hemodialysis specifically, grow exponentially. Knowing that, one might expect that the number of providers has grown concurrently. Unfortunately, that hasn't been the case. Instead, a limited number of providers have added more and more facilities to their repertoires – to the detriment of my patients.

The center proposed by U.S. Renal Care would bring another option for those who need it. Plain and simple, more choices mean better quality. Allowing another provider to enter the market would bring improved care for all patients. That's not to mention that I have the utmost respect for Drs. Ahmed and Rauf, who are leading U.S. Renal Care's foray into the region.

As you move forward with your evaluation, know that I support U.S. Renal Care as a new provider in this market. I want what's best for my patients, and I am confident that this facility would ultimately benefit them.

Sincerely,



Michael Cohan, M.D.

