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HEALTH FACILITIES &
SERVICES REVIEW BOARD

Dale Galassie
Chairman
Illinois Health Facilities & Services Review Board
525 W. Jefferson St., 2nd Floor
Springfield, IL 62761

Re: Objection to Fresenius Medical Care North Pekin (Project #
12-004)

Mr. Galassie,

I am a nephrologist providing kidney care to patients residing in the Peoria/Pekin area. I strongly oppose the establishment of the Fresenius Medical Care ("FMC") North Pekin dialysis facility. FMC is the only dialysis provider in the Pekin/Peoria area. FMC currently operates four dialysis facilities in Peoria and Pekin. Patients need choice. Competition in the market increases quality of care and patient satisfaction. Establishment of yet another FMC dialysis facility will block competition and ensure patients in this area will not have a choice of provider.

My partner, Dr. M. Shakaib, and I began treating patients suffering from chronic kidney disease ("CKD") last September. In the short time since starting our nephrology practice, the number of CKD patients we treat has grown exponentially. Currently, we are treating 89 stage 3, stage 4, and stage 5 CKD patients. We estimate approximately 50 percent of these patients will likely require dialysis within the next 24 months. Dr. Shakaib and I have been


PEKIN HOSPITAL

Personal Size. Personal Care.

locked out of the Peoria/Pekin dialysis market. We are not a part of the dominant nephrology group in Peoria/Pekin and do not have directorship privileges at any of the FMC dialysis facilities. We are concerned the continuity of care of our existing patients and the patients may suffer once they initiate dialysis.

Dr. Shakaib and I intend to build a new dialysis center in Pekin to provide high quality dialysis care not only for our patients, but to all dialysis patients residing in Peoria/Pekin and the surrounding areas. Further, our facility will bring healthy competition to the region. Patients in the Peoria/Pekin area for the first time will have a choice of dialysis provider. Additionally, increased competition will improve quality of care and patient satisfaction at all facilities in Peoria/Pekin. Monopoly of Fresenius Medical Care and only choice in this region is hurting patient's rights and quality care.

I strongly urge the Illinois Health Facilities and Services Review Board to allow Dr. Shakaib and me an opportunity to establish a new dialysis facility in Pekin and provide residents in the Peoria/Pekin area with a choice of dialysis provider. Therefore, I respectfully request the Illinois Health Facilities and Services Review Board deny the FMC North Pekin application.

Yours truly,



Ahsan Usman, MD, MASN, MACP, MBBS, FCPS-1
Nephrologist/ Internal Medicine
CEO, Kidney Health Care
President, Intensive Health Care
Medical Director, Hospitalist Program, Pekin Hospital
Medical Director, Harbourlight Hospice
Medical Director, Comfort plus

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HEALTH FACILITIES &
SERVICES REVIEW BOARD

Dated: 5/11/12

To
Mr. Dale Galassie
Chairman
Illinois Health Facilities & Services Review Board
525 W. Jefferson St., 2nd Floor
Springfield, IL 62761

Re: Project # 12-004, Fresenius Medical Care North Pekin
Opposition to the establishment of another dialysis center in this region exclusively
by FMC.

Mr. Galassie,

I, Dr. Mohammed Ismail Shakaib, MD a Nephrologist providing kidney health care to the citizens of Pekin and Peoria and my Partner Dr. Ahsan Usman, MD have been providing the kidney care to the citizens of Pekin and Peoria since September 2011.

There is only one dialysis company Fresenius medical Care (FMC) in Pekin and Peoria who has the monopoly in this region for several years. Citizens, patients, physicians and kidney specialists have no other choice to get dialysis services in this area. Under monopoly of FMC, there are several patient care issues, quality of care issues. As there is no healthy competition in the area, Patients and their families have no choice but get badly treated by FMC and their staff. Being kidney specialists, I and Dr. Usman, feel that we are limited and restricted to unfair treatment to us and to our dialysis patients by FMC's monopoly. For thirty years, there was only one nephrology group renal care. When I and Dr. Usman arrived, we provided alternative patient care choice. Several patients who were being neglected and mistreated by renal care switched over to us. We broke the renal care monopoly in this region and providing high quality of care in this region. The same way, we are committed to provide alternative dialysis center choice to the people of Pekin and Peoria.

We want to build a new dialysis center in North Pekin as there is tremendous need in this area. We will bring healthy competition in the region. Once there will be healthy competition in the region then even FMC try to provide better quality to compete with our standards and growth. Our patients, their families and physicians will have choice to get better quality care, they deserve and services which are lacking in this region for years.

As it is evident, there is need to build a dialysis center in North Pekin, from the supporting letters written by Stephen J. Flowers (president- Village of N. Pekin) and

Jack Desatnick who sits on the board of Directors of central Illinois memorial Kidney foundation. Please allow us to build a dialysis facility under Kidney health care and block this ongoing FMC monopoly in this whole region.

Benefits to the patients if they have a choice of dialysis center other than only FMC dialysis facility.

1. With healthy competition, quality of patient care will improve in this region
2. Patients will be able to have access to dialysis facility close to their homes
3. Patients will be able to get the dialysis shift whatever they like. One of my patients is waiting to get first shift of dialysis at FMC facility for four months and he is still on waiting list forever.
4. Patients, who will not be happy with the care they get at the dialysis center, will have choice to go to different facility. Now there is only one dialysis company FMC all over this region in Pekin and Peoria. Patients have no choice but get treated by FMC regardless of their complaints. That is very frustrating to some of the patients particularly the patients who switched over to me had bad experiences with the FMC and renal care group. Renal care group used to be the only nephrology group in this whole region and had monopoly in this region just like FMC does.

Precisely, I strongly oppose approval of establishment of a dialysis center by FMC in north Pekin and allow this dialysis company to keep the monopoly in this region forever. When there is no healthy competition, patient care suffers.

Kidney Health care should be granted the CON to establish a dialysis facility in the North Pekin, IL region to service the community and bring them a dialysis center of their choice.

Yours truly,



Dr. Mohammed Ismail Shakaib MD,
Nephrologist/ Internal Medicine
CFO, Kidney Health Care

To Whom It May Concern:

I think Ahsan Usman, M.D. should be given authorization to operate a Dialysis Clinic in Central Illinois.

This gentleman is a very dedicated, caring doctor and I'm sure can do better for kidney disease sufferers than the existing facilities in this area.

I was in a clinic in E. Peoria for over three years. It was so cold I wore four shirts, two pairs of space age long underwear and flannel lined trousers. Then I placed a doubled heavy blanket on my chair, wrapped a sheepskin around my legs and placed another doubled blanket over the sheepskin.

I complained about the cold but it did no good. So I took one day off my treatment program. It got colder in the clinic so I left and Dr Usman became my kidney specialist.

He placed me in a small clinic in Pekin and it's becoming very uncomfortable there. Too cold!

If Dr Usman had his own clinic he would be able to control everything whereas he can only complain to no avail.

I'd hate to stop dialysis treatments but if I can't get a transplant I'm considering doing just that.

If Dr Usman could run his own clinic his money would stay in American and not go overseas.

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Thank You
Edmund J. Graham
Mackinaw, IL 61755