



Illinois Kidney Disease & Hypertension Center

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Re: Project #12-004, Fresenius Medical Care North Pekin

Dear Mr. Galassie:

I am the Medical Director of the Fresenius Medical Care Pekin dialysis facility and the Fresenius Medical Care Peoria Downtown dialysis facility. The Pekin facility has been operating above 80% for many years. It is common that patients who reside in the Pekin area are not able to be admitted to the Pekin facility because there is no chair available for dialysis. When this occurs, these patients are accommodated at a Peoria facility and placed on a waiting list for Pekin. It is also common that new dialysis patients in Pekin are generally admitted to the last shift of the day. The more desirable first and second shifts are the first to fill, leaving no room on these shifts for new or transferring patients. Please allow me the opportunity to explain why this is not acceptable and why we need another dialysis facility in Pekin.

As you are aware, dialysis is a difficult life-sustaining therapy with significant physical and emotional challenges. Kidney failure patients are often elderly and have many co-morbid diseases. They must attend dialysis regularly for 4 hours – three days per week in order to stay healthy. They often feel very weak and tired after each treatment. The rigors of dialysis compound the challenges of their physical disabilities. It is very difficult for these patients to travel long distances to receive their dialysis treatment. Many of these Pekin patients live in rural areas and are not used to driving in larger cities such as Peoria. Peoria public transportation is not available to patients outside of Peoria County. A North Pekin dialysis facility would greatly improve the ease of access to care for these patients.

A new North Pekin dialysis unit would not adversely impact my facility at Pekin Hospital. The additional chairs will allow us to be more responsive to new patients and to accommodate all of our patients and their family's schedules in arranging dialysis. Indeed, I expect that our patient's satisfaction will improve because of this additional capacity in our community.



RenalCare
Associates, S.C.

Let me end with a recent story that illustrates why we need the North Pekin facility. A patient of mine passed away at the end of April after being on dialysis for somewhat over 1 year. She and her elderly husband lived very close to the site of the planned North Pekin facility. When she began dialysis, there was no space available in the Pekin facility so she was placed at the Peoria Downtown facility. Driving across the river and 20-30 minutes into Peoria was difficult for them. Additionally, they were uncomfortable in this inner city facility because of security concerns outside the building. They greatly appreciated the care given to them by Fresenius Medical Care staff but hoped to be able to transfer to Pekin. Unfortunately, because the Pekin day shifts were full and because her husband cannot drive at night, a spot never became available. They would often ask me if there was an opening in Pekin as I made rounds in the Peoria facility, but had to tell them that nothing was available. They continued to hope and persevere – and desired to communicate to this board, their genuine desire for expanded capacity in Pekin. Unfortunately, life changed dramatically in early April when she was diagnosed with cancer. She died suddenly during a diagnostic procedure meant to stage her disease. She never made it into the Pekin facility. I regret not having the space to dialyze my patient in a facility nearer her home where her care could have been more convenient for her and her family.

I want to thank you for considering this application request for a new dialysis facility in North Pekin. I respectfully request your approval of the Fresenius Medical Care application.

Sincerely,



Timothy A. Pflederer, M.D.

Medical Director, Fresenius Medical Care Pekin

Medical Director, Fresenius Medical Care Peoria Downtown