

Constantino, Mike

From: Anis Rauf [anis.rauf@arencare.com]
Sent: Wednesday, October 10, 2012 4:38 PM
To: Constantino, Mike
Cc: Mohammed Ahmed
Attachments: ARC Letter of Support.jpeg; ARC Letter ofSupport pg1.jpeg

Please include these in the file for 12-058 and 12-059
We will also fax a hard copy.

Thanks.



Advanced Renal Care, LTD.

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October 09, 2012

Mr. Dale Galassie
Chairman
Illinois Health Facilities and Services Review Board
525 W. Jefferson, Second Floor
Springfield, IL 62761

Re: U.S. Renal Care Lemont (#12-058) and Plainfield Dialysis (#12-059)

Dear Chairman Galassie:

We, Dr's. Anis Rauf and Mohammed Ahmed are current medical directors of the US Renal Care facilities in Oakbrook and Bolingbrook. I am proud to say that our new Oakbrook facility opened its doors on September 26th and treated its first patient. Our Bolingbrook facility is scheduled to open later at the end of this month. We would like to express sincere appreciation for giving the residents of Downers Grove and Bolingbrook a choice in seeking a dialysis provider. We already have several patients in the community who have expressed interest in dialyzing at our facility as soon as we have completed the certification process.

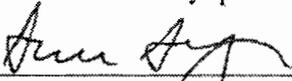
Our parents taught us that hard work, integrity, and humility are the key ingredients to a successful career. At Loyola University Medical Center we learned that disease is more than a compilation of the multiple physiologic processes within our patients. At Mayo Clinic we learned that "the best interest of the patient is the only interest to be considered". With these basic tenets in our minds we set out to create the Mayo Model of care in the Western Suburbs. We were once told once that the three most important decisions a Nephrologist will make are: career choice, who you have as your spouse and life partner, and who will be your dialysis provider. Both of us will tell you today that we believe we have had the good fortune making the right choice on each of these decisions. We have visited dialysis units throughout the country as we had the opportunity to interview many dialysis providers across the country. Given the emotional, social, and physiologic toll the dialysis process has on our patients, we asked ourselves if we were on dialysis, how would we want our unit to feel, look, how would we want to be treated. We found that US Renal Care gave us autonomy and kept us intimately involved at each phase of development. The results are before you, I encourage each of you to come to the Oakbrook facility that is now open and invite you to the Ribbon Cutting ceremony of the US Renal Care Bolingbrook dialysis unit. You will see the quality choice US Renal Care brings for our patients.

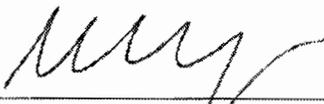
US Renal Care's philosophy and mission statement mirrors ours. We view dialysis as a bridge to kidney transplant. Unfortunately, in Illinois there is a significant shortage of kidney transplants as the wait time once listed is about 5 years sometimes even up to 7 to 8 years. Secretary of State Jesse White was a key speaker at our Oak Brook facility ribbon cutting ceremony last week and lauded our support of organ donation. He also shared that the US Renal Care Dialysis facility is "like no other that I've seen" commenting on patient comfort measures and a home-like ambience. Dialysis is not easy and requires time away from home, family, work, etc and is a family affair and patients will nearly spend a quarter of their remaining life in the dialysis units. We now have the brick and mortar shell as our units have just been completed and we hope in the coming months and years to give our units soul with our patients and our staff.

We are in full support for U.S. Renal Care's Certificate of Need application for a dialysis center in Lemont and Plainfield, Illinois. These proposed facilities will help serve the growing number of patients with kidney diseases and other conditions requiring dialysis. Our practice treats a significant number of individuals suffering from end stage renal disease and chronic kidney disease and we recognize the importance of accessible and convenient dialysis services. It is critical that patients have access to the dialysis services they need close to home and at convenient times. We have seen firsthand how critical it is for patients to have a choice in choosing a dialysis provider within their community as competition breeds quality of care and raises the standards above all. It makes no sense to have two of the same providers in the same town.

Over the past several years we have worked closely with the Drs. Naila Ahmed and Dr. Preeti Nagarakatee who work with North East Nephrology Associates in Joliet. We have taken care of many of their patients at Bolingbrook Hospital and have noted that they are outstanding physicians who have gone out of their way to seek out to bring US Renal Care to the areas of Lemont and Plainfield. We have also supported Dr. Michael Cohan and Dr. Gordon Lang when they brought US Renal Care to the communities of Villa Park and Streamwood respectively. As the incidence and prevalence of chronic kidney disease and end stage renal disease grows there will be a dire need for more stations in both of these health care service areas and we have and will continue to have patients that will need dialysis in these areas and believe that a US Renal Care dialysis facility will be an ideal setting for our patients. We sincerely believe that when patients have a choice in choosing a provider their ultimate quality does improve. We agree that the driving distance between current facilities of greater than even 20 minutes can make it extremely difficult for patients with chronic conditions to travel back and forth from dialysis 3-4 times a week. It becomes very difficult for family members as well as physicians to maintain continuity of care with their patients. We have experienced this first hand.

In closing, the U.S. Renal Care Lemont and Plainfield Dialysis facility will provide these residents with access to much needed dialysis services within their communities and I ask the Illinois Health Facilities and Services Review Board to approve this application. Please feel free to call us with any questions.


Anis A. Rauf, DO, FASN


Mohammed S. Ahmed, DO FASN