



Advocate Medical Group

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RECEIVED Gynecologic Oncology

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**HEALTH FACILITIES &
SERVICES REVIEW BOARD**

Advocate Christ Medical Center and Hope Children's Hospital is planning to construct a patient tower on its Oak Lawn campus. The proposed development would add additional inpatient beds. It is critically important to resolving the medical center's lack of capacity, its inability to admit all patients who require and seek care here, along its need to upgrade facilities and create more intensive care unit space. With its current 690 patient beds, the medical center has been running at around 90 percent capacity. During 2011, patients in need of health care were unable to gain admission to the hospital because a lack of patient beds. The medical center was forced to go on bypass for some 1,100 hours in 2011 and diverted patients to other area and out of area facilities.

Meanwhile, patient visits to the medical center's emergency department exceeded 90,000 last year. The resulting congestion in an area built originally for fewer than half that number of emergency visits led to longer patient waits and loss of another 2,700 patients who left the emergency waiting area before seeing a physician. Despite the hospital's improved efficiencies in coordinating the admission, testing and discharge of patients, the problems are only expected to grow. The changing demographics including advancing age of the area's population and the full implementation of national Health Care Reform legislation will increase demand for hospital care. At the same time, as the only tertiary and quaternary service provider in the Southland, the medical center will require more contemporary, efficient facilities to accommodate continuing advancements in medicine and technology, while providing care in space that ensures the highest quality care, enhances patient safety and protects patient privacy.

The tower also enhances the cosmetics of the Medical Center and allows us to compete with other healthcare institutions in the area. We will be able to provide care for women across the age spectrum. This will also allow us to have improved continuity of care for these patients with areas of service all easily accessible.

We ask that you highly consider our request for expansion. If there are other questions I can answer or concerns I can address, please don't hesitate to call (708) 684-1565.

Sincerely,

Yvonne Collins, MD, FACOG
Gynecologic Oncology
Advocate Medical Group