

18 February 2013

Naser Rustom, MD  
Preferred SurgiCenter  
10 Orland Square Drive  
Orland Park, Illinois 60462

13-007  
**RECEIVED**

FEB 27 2013

HEALTH FACILITIES &  
SERVICES REVIEW BOARD

**Letter of Opposition to Proposed Multi-Specialty Surgical Center**

Dear Dr. Rustom:

Our organization has received your letter proposing establishment of a new multi-specialty surgery center in our geographic area of service. Be advised that such a center would *adversely* impact our facility which provides single-specialty gastrointestinal endoscopy services. We advise you and will duly advise the Illinois Health Facilities and Services Review Board that we stand **opposed** for the following reasons:

**1. Adverse Effect on Utilization**

Oak Lawn Endoscopy is staffed by ten full-time practicing gastroenterologists with a history of longstanding service to the patients of the southwest suburban community. Our center has two state-of-the-art procedure rooms, and is located just over 8 miles from your planned facility. Despite the presence of two fully-equipped hospitals in our immediate vicinity, our very popular and well-respected physicians performed over 6000 procedures last year with a calculated utilization of 77%. Placement of another facility performing GI endoscopy in the same geographic area would result in under-utilization of both surgi-centers.

**2. Unnecessary Duplication of Services**

As understood by the term, "Certificate of Need" (CON), an applicant for such a designation by the State of Illinois must show that the services to be provided are not adequately being met by existing facilities. In addition to our nearby facility, be advised that the newly constructed Advocate Tinley Woods Surgery Center is just 5.7 miles from your proposed surgicenter. It features four modern operating suites and performs the exact same orthopedic, general surgery, pain management, and GI endoscopy services you are planning. The new Palos Community Hospital located 5.3 miles from your proposed location has added new state of the art operating suites including robotic surgery and has increased its outpatient GI procedure rooms to four. The brand-new Silver Cross Hospital located 11 miles from your location features brand-new operating suites including DaVinci robotic surgery and a new 4 room GI procedures unit. Christ Hospital and Medical Center located 10.5 miles away is in the process of completing its

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# endoscopy

new nine story outpatient surgery pavilion which includes eight endoscopy rooms and new surgical suites for general and orthopedic surgery.

### **3. Potential Effect on Staffing Levels**

The optimum operation of an ambulatory surgical center (ASTC)—particularly in the procedure rooms—requires staffing with highly-trained, competent registered nurses. These facilities are NOT the places to put part-time staff or nurses without subspecialty training. In the case of the average ASTC, the vast majority of their nursing staffs have been recruited from area hospitals. Given the significant expansion of the local hospitals in your geographic region, placement of another multi-specialty ASTC in the same area might trigger a drain on appropriate staffing levels at these institutions or set up a situation in which the new ASTC is faced with shortages of appropriate staff.

### **4. Commitment to the Community**

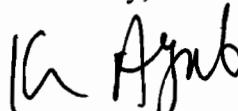
It appears that Dr. Rustom has financial interests in clinics located in Elgin, 63<sup>rd</sup> Street in Chicago, and Fullerton Avenue in Chicago with staff privileges in general internal medicine at Advocate Christ Hospital. To our knowledge, Dr. Rustom has minimal if any activity at Christ Hospital. By contrast, our ten physicians have accumulated over 200 *years* of professional service to this community and its surrounding hospitals (Christ, Palos, Little Company of Mary, and Silver Cross). Additionally, given Dr. Rustom's credentials in internal medicine, this raises the questions: 1) Who exactly will be performing the general surgery, orthopedic, GI endoscopy and pain management procedures at the proposed facility? 2) What would be the point of a significant number of physicians eschewing multiple local, well-respected, longstanding community affiliated institutions boasting brand new facilities to take their patients to a surgicenter owned by an outsider?

Please do not hesitate to call if you have any questions.



Wayne Lue, MD  
CEO, Oak Lawn Endoscopy

Sincerely,



Kanran Ayub, MD  
Medical Director,  
Oak Lawn Endoscopy



Thomas Arndt, MD  
CFO, Oak Lawn Endoscopy

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Cc: Mr. Michael Constantino  
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