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January 20, 2016

RECEIVED
JAN 25 2016
HEALTH FACILITIES & SERVICES REVIEW BOARD

Ms. Courtney Avery, Administrator
Illinois Health Facilities & Services Review Board
525 W. Jefferson, 2nd Floor
Springfield, IL 62761

Dear Ms. Avery:

I am writing in support of the Master Design CON for a new comprehensive outpatient building on the Rush campus.

I am the Section Chief of Gastroenterology in the Division of Digestive Diseases and Nutrition at Rush University Medical Center. I am also on the physician leadership steering committee. This is a group of physicians and administrators that have been tasked with evaluating the structure of the new outpatient facility and bringing "clinical life" to this facility. As we expand into the future we look to the past and attempt to learn what has facilitated patient care/satisfaction and what needs improvement. In the new plans, we have focused on accessibility to care with more convenient parking, appropriate coupling of clinicians with ancillary and supportive facilities (radiology, physical therapy, core labs, etc.), and clearer/easier marked routes and larger spaces to facilitate care for a diverse population. However, perhaps the most exciting aspect of this new facility is the close proximity of various clinicians whose treatment and care of patients overlap (i.e. gastroenterologist/colorectal surgeons). This is a tremendous opportunity to draw from the expertise of other physicians/nurses in different subspecialties that can lend opinions easily due to their close proximity. Subspecialty clinics such as cancer clinics, pelvic floor clinics, GI/allergy clinics etc. already provide this service to give patient's comprehensive N efficient diagnostic and therapeutic strategy for their illnesses. However, as multiple subspecialists are brought to a single area outside their usual clinical space, this model is often fraught with inefficiency. The new model will allow for similar clinical expertise in treatment but will optimize efficiency. Additionally, this "cross-pollination" will lead to more efficient care, reduction in redundancy of care, and also provide fertile ground for future clinical and research questions that will ultimately optimize patient care. I believe the model that will be produced in our new outpatient structure will be the future of modern medicine.

I hope this information brings his much excitement to you as it has to me. Additionally, I believe the structure in composition of this new building will be a harbinger for the future of patient care.

Sincerely,

Mark DeMeo, M.D.
Chief, Section of Gastroenterology
Division of Digestive Diseases & Nutrition
Rush University Medical Center