

Constantino, Mike

From: Jack Axel [jacobmaxel@msn.com]
Sent: Tuesday, October 04, 2016 12:21 PM
To: Constantino, Mike
Cc: clare ranalli
Subject: [External] purpose

Mike-

The purposes of the proposed establishment of an ASTC, as identified on page 44 of the Certificate of Need application, are: 1) to improve accessibility to the high-quality outpatient surgery services provided by the surgeons of Rush University Medical Group ("RUMG") and Midwest Orthopaedics at Rush ("MOR"), and 2) to reduce the high utilization of the surgical suite at Rush University Medical Center ("RUMC"). Both will be accomplished.

Accessibility will be improved in two primary fashions. First, accessibility will be improved by "off-loading" cases from RUMC. As you are aware, the surgical suite at RUMC operated at 134% of the IDPH's target utilization level in 2015, and has been operating at similar levels for a number of years. As you are also aware, Rush Surgicenter, which is on the RUMC campus, operated at 104% of the IDPH's target utilization level in 2015.

Second, as an academic medical center and referral center, RUMC attracts a significant portion of its patient population from neighborhoods and communities remote to the RUMC campus. Similarly, as one of the premier orthopaedic practices in the Country, MOR draws patients from the metro-region, including Western suburbs, and throughout Illinois and beyond. The development of the proposed ASTC near the intersection of I-294, I-88 and the Eisenhower Expressway will significantly improve accessibility for patients of both RUMC and MOR residing in the western, northwestern and southwestern Cook County communities, DuPage County, Kane County, Will County, Kendall County and beyond, that have traveled to the RUMC campus for outpatient surgery. At the same time, the accommodating of these patients in a more accessible location will improve accessibility to the RUMC surgical suite and Rush Surgicenter by "freeing-up" OR time for residents in the neighborhoods and communities surrounding the RUMC campus, and in the neighborhoods and communities to the northeast, east, and southeast.

Thirty-one physicians provided the required "pledge" letters, used to confirm that the proposed ASTC would meet the IDPH's utilization target. Those physicians cumulatively performed nearly 11,000 outpatient cases in 2015 at a Rush facility or an ASTC in Chicago's Loop. 4,274 of those cases were performed at RUMC. Therefore, the applicants have documented that both accessibility will be improved and the utilization of the surgical suite at RUMC will be reduced. Lastly, RUMC's OR utilization alone supports the eight proposed ORs at the surgery center. Offloading all of the required surgical caseload alone to the proposed surgery center would not, however, accomplish the other purpose of the project, which is to improve accessibility for RUMC and MOR patients living primarily in the Western suburbs.

Thanks for the opportunity to address this.

Jack

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