

NEPHROLOGY

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DuPageMedicalGroup.com

Illinois Health Facilities and Service Review Board
525 West Jefferson Street, 2nd Floor
Springfield, IL 62761

Proposed In-Center Hemodialysis Facilities

- #17-013 - Geneva Crossing Dialysis (Carol Stream, Illinois)
- #17-014 - Rutgers Park Dialysis (Woodridge, Illinois)
- #17-015 - Stone Quarry Dialysis (Hodgkins, Illinois)
- #17-016 - Salt Creek Dialysis (Villa Park, Illinois)

Dear Chair Olson and Members of the Illinois Health Facilities & Services Review Board:

I am writing this letter to fully support the Certificate of Need requests filed by DaVita Inc. and DuPage Medical Group, Ltd. for the development of new In-Center Hemodialysis facilities in order to provide superior care to end stage renal disease (ESRD) patients and their families.

As a physician who is double boarded in Nephrology and Internal Medicine, I recognize the need for a paradigm shift in the care of our ESRD population. These patients are fragile and have complex medical needs in light of their many comorbidities that accompany their renal disease including heart failure, coronary artery disease, high blood pressure, anemia, bone disease, and diabetes. These patients are more likely to require hospitalizations as a result, and with an integrated care model that DuPage Medical Group is based on, I believe that we can decrease hospitalizations and improve the quality and quantity of life for our patients.

DuPage Medical Group has a system in place where physicians across various disciplines are readily available and willing to go above and beyond to help their patients. The comprehensive electronic medical record makes information regarding patient care easily accessible and allows timely and efficient communication between physicians. This collaborative nature among specialists and subspecialists has carried over to our ESRD population as well, and having a partnership with dialysis units through DaVita will allow another dimension of collaboration and continuity of care.

Furthermore, DuPage Medical Group has resources such as infusion centers and immediate care centers which can be integrated with our prospective dialysis units to help patients avoid emergency room visits and hospitalizations. The Breakthrough Care Center of DuPage Medical Group serves our most vulnerable and complex patients, and programs can be established to provide additional support and education to our ESRD patients in partnership with DaVita.

Hemodialysis patients require a vascular access in order to perform their treatments. This can be in the form of a shunt underneath the skin such as a fistula or graft, or tunneled dialysis catheters which are placed in a large vein in the neck. It is important for patients who undergo dialysis to have a multidisciplinary care team including vascular surgeons and interventional radiologists to provide care for these access points, especially when they malfunction. DuPage Medical Group has experienced specialists who can be integrated into our dialysis model to provide seamless care in conjunction with dialysis unit staff to maintain vascular access.

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Our ultimate goal is to provide exceptional care to a complex patient population in a unique way that brings together the expertise of various specialists, the assets of an expansive medical group with a strong integrated electronic medical record, and the resources of a large dialysis provider.

For these reasons, I ask that the Illinois Health Facilities & Services Review Board approve the dialysis facility applications submitted by DuPage Medical Group and DaVita.

Sincerely,

Shivani Shah

Shivani Shah, MD
DuPage Medical Group