

SWEDISHAMERICAN
A DIVISION OF UW HEALTH



Michael J. Born, MD, MBA, CPE
President And Chief Executive Officer

RECEIVED

March 15, 2018

MAR 19 2018

Via Federal Express

**HEALTH FACILITIES &
SERVICES REVIEW BOARD**

Ms. Kathryn J. Olson
Chair
Illinois Health Facilities and
Services Review Board
525 West Jefferson Street, 2nd Floor
Springfield, Illinois 62761

Re: Alpine Dialysis (Project No. 17-039)

Dear Ms. Olson:

I am the President & CEO of SwedishAmerican, a Division of UW Health. SwedishAmerican offers our patients local access to many excellent specialists and plays a key role in maintaining and improving community health in Rockford, Illinois. We will soon begin a significant modernization project of our flagship hospital campus to meet the growing needs of our community.

While SwedishAmerican offers a wide array of services, we do not provide outpatient dialysis services directly and instead rely on community providers to dialyze patients living with end-stage renal disease (ESRD). DaVita is a key partner in that endeavor and we support their efforts to expand access to dialysis services in the community.

As a community hospital, we experience firsthand the needs of those living with chronic kidney disease and the growing number of residents suffering from obesity, hypertension and heart disease, who are therefore at higher risk of developing kidney disease.

The SwedishAmerican Community Health Needs Assessment found that zip code 61109, where the proposed Alpine Dialysis facility would be located, scored 4.2 out of 5 on the Community Needs Index, with 5 representing the highest community need. As a result of these health care disparities, it is likely that the need for dialysis in Rockford is much greater than projected, and we fully support DaVita's efforts to send health care services to the areas that need them most.

Ms. Kathryn J. Olson
March 15, 2018
Page 2

Swedish American works to coordinate each ESRD patient's discharge plans with his or her dialysis provider to ensure the provider can access necessary clinical information to promote care coordination between the hospital and dialysis unit. These combined efforts improve dialysis care and reduce the risk of re-hospitalization. DaVita and SwedishAmerican are jointly committed to these principles, which further aid ESRD patients who may develop any complications during dialysis or as a result of worsening kidney function. According to the US Renal Data System, on average, ESRD patients are admitted to the hospital roughly twice each year. Our health system's relationship with DaVita has great potential to improve patient outcomes and builds upon SwedishAmerican and DaVita's internal efforts to reduce dialysis complications and promote patient health.

With SwedishAmerican Hospital's commitment to a healthy Rockford, we welcome this effort by DaVita to improve dialysis access in our community. SwedishAmerican fully supports the proposed facility and respectfully requests that the Illinois Health Facilities and Services Review Board approve the application for Alpine Dialysis.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Michael J. Born", is written over a horizontal line.

Michael J. Born, MD, MBA, CPE
President & CEO
SwedishAmerican, A Division of UW Health