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**HEALTH FACILITIES &  
SERVICES REVIEW BOARD**



August 29, 2019

Ms. Courtney Avery  
Board Administrator  
Health Facilities & Services Review Board  
Illinois Department of Public Health  
525 W. Jefferson Street  
Springfield, IL 62761

Re: Support for CON Encompass Health Rehabilitation Hospital of Libertyville, LLC

Dear Ms. Avery:

As the Chief Medical Officer of Vista Medical Center East and a board certified internal medicine physician, I am writing today to express my interest and support for this Certificate of Need request for approval to build a 60-bed inpatient rehabilitation hospital, Encompass Health Rehabilitation Hospital of Libertyville, LLC. In my role as a practicing internist, I see the need on a daily basis for intensive inpatient rehabilitation for patients who have suffered a stroke, brain bleeds, cerebral tumors, spinal cord tumors, amputations, traumas and neurological conditions. These patients deserve this service to not only have the opportunity to achieve the very best outcomes but also to maintain the very best quality of care.

In my role as a physician market leader, my work goes beyond supervising my patients. Inpatient rehabilitation is critically important for this population of patients. The availability of advanced technology, advanced education and training for the physicians, nurses, and therapists and evidence-based rehabilitation medicine is paramount in the patient's road to optimal recovery and function.

In my 15-plus years as an internist in Lake County, I've learned and experienced that this service is limited or access is denied by others that do offer inpatient rehabilitation. Since Vista Medical Center West closed their Inpatient Rehabilitation Center, patients and families are traveling over 40 miles to the City of Chicago or further to receive this care. When the patients do get approved and transferred to their inpatient rehabilitation beds, we never see those patients back for follow-up care. I can't emphasize enough the importance of patients receiving continuity in their healthcare, both as inpatients and outpatients. It quite frankly is a shame for our patients to have to experience new providers, new systems, and often duplicative testing such as CT scans or MRIs. Our patients in Lake County and surrounding counties certainly deserve to have all of their healthcare needs met, including inpatient rehabilitation, close to home.



As I have personally seen and experienced in my career, the benefit of inpatient rehabilitation that is close, convenient for patients, families, and providers that provides optimal outcomes and quality of life is so very important for the communities we serve. I urge you to support and grant approval for this CON application for Encompass Health Rehabilitation Hospital of Libertyville, LLC.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Ninad Dixit".

Ninad Dixit, MD  
Chief Medical Officer, Vista Medical Center East