



February 5, 2020

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

**Re: DaVita Freeport Analysis (Project No. 19-050)**

Dear Ms. Savage:

SwedishAmerican, A Division of UW Health, offers our patients local access to many excellent specialists and plays a key role in maintaining and improving community health in Rockford, Illinois.

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 DaVita Alpine Dialysis facility would be located, scored 4 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.

Swedish American works to coordinate each ESRD patient's discharge plans with their dialysis provider to ensure the provider can access necessary clinical information to promote care

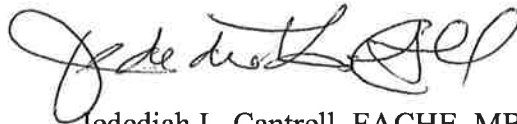
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coordination between the hospital and dialysis unit. These combined efforts improve dialysis care and reduce the risk of re-hospitalization. DaVita and SwedishAmerican are jointly committed to these principles, which further aid ESRD patients who may 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 'Jedediah L. Cantrell', written in a cursive style.

Jedediah L. Cantrell, FACHE, MBA

Vice-President of Operations

SwedishAmerican, A Division of UW Health