



December 22, 2020

Dr. Shakeel Ahmed
Chief Executive Officer
Physicians' Surgical Centre
741 Insight Avenue
O'Fallon, Illinois 62269

Dear Dr. Ahmed:


This is a letter of support for Physicians' Surgical Centre in its endeavor to add further surgical specialties including the specialties of Ophthalmology and Pain Management to its facility. These are trying times. We are in the middle of a pandemic and healthcare is crashing. Hospitals have had their hands full, and in addition have been handsomely supplemented by the federal government for any lack of business they have had in the last year or so. In these trying times patients need an option which is safer and better for simpler procedures. Instead of subjecting our patients to the risk of COVID and other infections in a high-risk environment, if there is an option available where patients can be seen efficiently and safely and get the care they need, at a fraction of the cost I may add, to the hospitals all of us should stand behind that.

As you are aware, Chestnut Health Systems is a federally qualified health center, (FQHC) providing services in several local communities with serious health disparities. Access to all services, including ophthalmology and pain management care, is important to all families we serve. Access to affordable services especially specialty care is also important for families and individuals to ensure all of their healthcare needs are met. As an FQHC, Chestnut Health Systems provides primary healthcare, including dental services, behavioral health and OB/GYN care. Having surgical services provided at ambulatory surgery centers, like Physicians' Surgical Center allows our clients to have quality as well as much more affordable care options.

As a provider that cares for persons with chronic medical and behavioral health conditions Chestnut Health Systems is committed to ensure our families are provided the best choices to access all levels of care including the current services and proposed Ophthalmology and Pain Management services at PSC.

I hope you are successful in this venture. You have our full support. Please contact me if I can be of further assistance.

Sincerely,


Orville Mercer
Vice President of Strategy & Innovation
Chestnut Health Systems

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