

February 10, 2023

Mr. John Kniery, Administrator  
Illinois Health Facilities and Services Review Board  
525 West Jefferson Street, 2nd Floor  
Springfield, IL 62761

Re: Springfield Clinic Cardiac Catherization Project No. 22-027

Dear Mr. Kniery,

Springfield Clinic has previously requested to appear before the Review Board in connection with the Cardiac Catherization project referenced above. At that time, we indicated that we would be presenting additional information for the Board's consideration.

#### Our Commitment to Promoting Health Equity

Springfield Clinic has a proud and extensive history of caring for Medicaid patients in central Illinois. Between our primary and specialty care services, we are the largest provider of comprehensive health care services to Medicaid patients in our region. In the fall of 2022, our Board of Directors voted to expand Medicaid services to the two surgery centers we own, strengthening our commitment to promote health equity in the greater central Illinois region. In doing so, Springfield Clinic joined a short list of independent outpatient surgery centers in the state who accept any Medicaid at all.

On Oct. 25, 2022, Springfield Clinic applied to the Illinois Department of Healthcare and Family Services (IDHFS) for acceptance as a Medicaid provider. (See attached). IDHFS approved our application on November 22, 2022, and welcomed us into the Medicaid program and expressed its appreciation for our participation. (See attached).

#### Progress in Implementing Broad Medicaid Program at Surgery Centers

Immediately upon receiving acceptance into the program, we began working with Managed Care Organizations ("MCOs") to contract for patients to receive care in our Springfield Clinic Ambulatory Surgical Treatment Center-Springfield. Springfield Clinic has historically contracted with all area MCOs for physician services. Since becoming accepted as a Medicaid provider, our Springfield Surgery Center has received verbal approval into contracts with the following MCOs: Molina, Meridian, and YouthCare.

More important than simply contracting with the MCOs, we immediately began scheduling patients and performing procedures at the surgery center. For the month of January 2023 our surgery center saw 24 patients for the following specialties:

<u>Specialty</u>	<u>Number of Patients</u>
Colon & Rectal Surgery	10
ENT	1
General Surgery	2
Gastroenterology	7
Pain Management	3
Vascular Surgery	1

For the month of February, the number of presently scheduled Medicaid patient cases has grown to 37 for the following specialties:

<u>Specialty</u>	<u>Number of Patients</u>
Gastroenterology	14
Colon & Rectal Surgery	12
Ophthalmology	1
Orthopedics	2
Pain Management	5
Urology	2
Vascular Surgery	1

Because surgeries are often scheduled far in advance, it has taken a short period for the number of Medicaid cases to ramp up to the full level we anticipate, which is 5-7 percent of all patients seen at the surgery center. That is well above the average percentage of Medicaid patients seen in the few independent ASTCs who see any Medicaid patients at all.



Anticipated Application Modification

When we return to the Review Board for consideration the Board will see additional evidence of our commitment to Medicaid patients and to promoting health equity. We anticipate filing a modification to our present CON application that provides that information.

Other Considerations

We recognize that additional questions were raised by Board members related on the following topics:

- Relationships with FQHCs
- Potential impact and value to hospital partners
- Access demands for patients
- Safety advances for these types of procedures

We are communicating with our FQHC and hospital partners to better articulate those vital relationships. We also intend to provide data driven updates to show the critical nature of the demand for this service in our community and our ability to provide those services safely. Lastly, we will provide additional justification supporting removal of one or both of the two negative findings included in the initial staff report.

We look forward to working with the Board to provide the information it needs.

Respectfully,



Ray Williams  
CEO, Springfield Clinic

Attachments



**SPRINGFIELD CLINIC**

Accredited by the Accreditation Association for Ambulatory Healthcare (AAAHC)