



A COMMUNITY OF CARING

Springfield Clinic Main Campus
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Accredited by the Accreditation Association for Ambulatory Healthcare (AAAHC)

September 13, 2023

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

Dear Mr. Kniery,

In response to Mr. Charles Callahan's letter of opposition, we would like to clarify a few critical points:

The increasing levels of cath procedures performed in this region from 2004 through 2019 was data provided to Springfield Clinic directly by review board staff or available on the review board website. The volume of procedures increased 58 percent over that time based on that data we received.

Decreases in cases in 2020 can be directly attributed to COVID-19. Flattening of the volume of procedures in central Illinois beyond that can, in large part, be attributed to Memorial's closure of at least one cath lab over the past year and other Memorial labs operating at well below full capacity due to ongoing staffing issues.

There are three primary drivers for the increased demand for these services in central Illinois, none of which are patient population:

1. The single largest demographic requiring cardiac cath procedures is the Medicare population, a group that will have doubled in size from 2000 to 2030 nationally. As the baby boomer generation reaches Medicare age, the demand for these procedures has exploded.
2. Additionally, the existing cath labs are now utilized for a large list of additional procedures that weren't yet introduced in the early 2000s. This has created demand that was never envisioned when Springfield increased to 15 cath labs in 2004.
3. Springfield has become a funnel for cardiac cath patients throughout all of central Illinois as tertiary markets have experienced resource challenges in staff and physician ranks.

Mr. Callahan implies that there is available capacity on any given day at Springfield Memorial Hospital and suggests that access can be had within 24 hours. While emergency cases can be seen within 24 hours, the increased volume of those cases is the reason why patients needing lower acuity care are being pushed to the back burner and forced into wait times averaging 41 days from positive stress test to procedure. A study detailed in Springfield Clinic's supplemental application shows that,

"Overall, 1.4% of patients had a major cardiac event, namely death, myocardial infarction or congestive heart failure. These events occurred over a median wait of 35 days for outpatients. Patients awaiting cardiac catheterization may experience major adverse events, which may be preventable."



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Lastly, Mr. Callahan seems to agree that we have understated our total volume of care provided to Medicaid patients in providing evidence of the volume of care that Springfield Clinic physicians provide to patients at Springfield Memorial Hospital. However, while listing hospitalists and intensivists in his letter, he fails to provide the data for nearly 30 other specialties in which our physicians provide care for inpatients at SMH.

Regarding the letter of opposition from Ms. Iris Wesley:

In response to questions from the board in December, we've made multiple attempts to complete a master agreement with SIU to formalize the deeply rooted partnership that we have developed for decades. Those meetings, which have taken place over the course of the past year, have included Springfield Clinic's CEO, Springfield Clinic's Board Chairman, Springfield Clinic's Chief Medical Officer, SIU Dean and Provost Jerry Cruz and Memorial CEO Ed Curtis.

We give Ms. Wesley the benefit of the doubt that she may not have been aware that these conversations were taking place, but we received a redline response to our proposal on the day that Ms. Wesley filed her opposition letter.

Additionally, her implication that we see SIU patients on a "rare occasion" is simply inaccurate. From January 1, 2022, to September 13, 2023, we have cared for 10,400 overall referrals from SIU, including 1,800 referrals specifically from SIU Family Medicine providers.

Thank you for your attention,

Cal Thomas

Chief Development Officer

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Cal Thomas". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style with a long horizontal stroke at the bottom.