

Jason Puccini
President
Argonaut Medical LLC
One Mid America Plaza, Floor 3
Oakbrook Terrace, IL 60181

December 4, 2023

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

Dear Chair Savage:

I have been in the Spine and Ortho industry for over twenty years and currently work directly with surgeons, assisting them with where to perform their procedures. I approached Innovia Surgery Center as a hope to collaborate and have a reliable source of placement for these surgeons. ASC's have become a desirable option for patients and physicians for many reasons, including but not limited to; lower infection rates, faster coverage, patient satisfaction and overall ability to provide top-notch care.

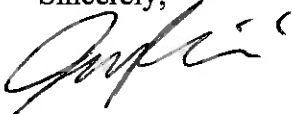
According to a Becker's article, spinal procedures performed at an ASC have had a 200% increase in recent years. This increase alone proves the need of Spinal and Ortho procedures to be done at an ASC. With healthcare costs rising faster than average annual incomes, ASCs provide a cost-effective solution that maintains patient safety while alleviating the financial burden on patients and payers.

Infection is a huge concern when it comes to spinal or ortho procedures. One noteworthy aspect of Innovia is its commendable infection control measures, resulting in significantly lower infection rates compared to hospitals. This focus on patient safety is a testament to Innovia's dedication to maintaining high standards in healthcare.

Coverage and available block time is also of importance. At times it is rather difficult to schedule a procedure at a hospital setting due to their heavy flow of traffic. Additionally, wait times at the hospital can be many hours as emergent cases take priority over non-urgent cases. In general, I have found patients to be more satisfied with having their procedures done at an ASC as they benefit with a faster recovery and a more accommodating environment.

Overall, I highly recommend and support the need of adding spine and orthopedic procedures at Innovia Surgery Center. They are a very efficient, accommodating, flexible and dependable center. This endeavor will not only benefit patients and physicians but will also contribute to the improvement of our healthcare system.

Sincerely,



Jason Puccini
President

Robert K. Erickson, M.D.
Spine & Neurosurgeon
Micro Neuro Spine
920 N. Noble St.
Chicago, IL 60642

December 6, 2023

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

Dear Chair Savage:

As a spine surgeon deeply invested in my patient care, I eagerly extend my support for the integration of spine and orthopedic procedures at Innovia Surgery Center. Innovia presents a distinct advantage in terms of scheduling, drastically reducing patient wait times when compared to the unpredictability often encountered in hospital settings. This reliability is greatly appreciated by physicians as well as their patients.

Innovia Surgery Center offers a welcoming and accommodating environment. A surgical procedure may take 1-2 hours followed by a longer recovery time. At Innovia, there are highly skilled and specialty-trained staff to enhance patient care during this recovery time. As a surgeon, it is important to me that patient care and satisfaction is a priority. Patients in ASCs generally require fewer medications, which contributes to a reduction in the consumption of opioids.

I endorse the proposal to broaden the scope of procedures at Innovia Surgery Center, confident that it will contribute to improved patient outcomes and satisfaction.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "R. Erickson", with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Dr. Robert Erickson
Spine and Neurosurgeon