

October 28, 2015

Mike McKillip
Project Analyst
Certificate of Need

Dear Sir,

I have been practicing Internal Medicine and Nephrology in Laurinburg and Maxton , NC for last 12 years . I also serve as Medical Director for dialysis centers in Laurinburg and for Scotland Memorial Hospital.I am writing this letter to request you to deny Certificate of Need to Total Renal Care(Davita) for adding 4 additional dialysis chairs to a proposed dialysis center in Maxton,NC . I want to bring following issues to your attention.

It is true that residents of Maxton,NC will benefit from a dialysis center. However the number of dialysis patients in Maxton,NC is not enough to to maintain a viable dialysis center.The number of dialysis patients who will be using the proposed Maxton dialysis center has been artificially boosted with letters obtained from patients who don't even live in Maxton,NC or Robeson County,NC.

This new proposed dialysis center and the additional chairs will be competing for dialysis patients residing in Scotland County. Scotland County is one of the poorest counties of North Carolina with high unemployment rate . Scotland Dialysis Center is operating in loss.One of the dialysis centers may close due to poor financial performance.Therefore building and adding dialysis chairs in Maxton,NC will have several unintended consequences for the patients of Scotland County.Paradoxically their access to care will be limited.These dialysis patients will have to incur transport costs and arrange their own transport to cross the county line.

As of now dialysis patients living in Laurinburg are being forced to goto Davita(Total Renal Care) Dialysis Center in McColl,SC.This has caused severe hardship for these patients who already have scant resources.Those patients are being erroneously told that there is no dialysis chair available in dialysis centers in Scotland County. Even after these patients approach the management of FMCNA dialysis centers in Laurinburg and are accepted as patients, they face a lot of resistance in getting their dialysis care transferred closer to their home .The same scenario is going to repeat with dialysis center in Maxton,NC .

In this era of payment cuts and scant resources , where health systems are either merging or shutting down their doors , small dialysis centers are not viable and drain patients from surrounding areas , paradoxically decreasing access to health care.

I urge you to deny Certificate of Need to Davita(Total Renal Care) to expand and build a dialysis center in Maxton,NC and save patients living in Laurinburg and Maxton from corporate overreach.

Sincerely,

Muhammad J Iqbal

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