

REQUIRED STATE AGENCY FINDINGS

FINDINGS

C = Conforming

CA = Conforming as Conditioned

NC = Nonconforming

NA = Not Applicable

Decision Date: April 4, 2022

Findings Date: April 4, 2022

Project Analyst: Kim Meymandi

Co-Signer: Gloria C. Hale

Project ID #: J-12163-21

Facility: Johnston Dialysis Center

FID #: 944566

County: Johnston

Applicant(s): Bio-Medical Applications of North Carolina, Inc.

Project: Add no more than seven dialysis stations pursuant to Condition 2 of the facility need methodology for a total of no more than 33 stations upon completion of this project and Project ID# J-012128-21 (relocate 7)

REVIEW CRITERIA

G.S. 131E-183(a): The Department shall review all applications utilizing the criteria outlined in this subsection and shall determine that an application is either consistent with or not in conflict with these criteria before a certificate of need for the proposed project shall be issued.

- (1) The proposed project shall be consistent with applicable policies and need determinations in the State Medical Facilities Plan, the need determination of which constitutes a determinative limitation on the provision of any health service, health service facility, health service facility beds, dialysis stations, operating rooms, or home health offices that may be approved.

C

Bio-Medical Applications of North Carolina, Inc. (hereinafter referred to as “the applicant” or BMA) proposes to add no more than seven dialysis stations pursuant to Condition 2 of the facility need methodology for a total of no more than 33 stations upon completion of this project and Project ID# J-012128-21 (relocate 7). Bio-Medical Applications of North Carolina, Inc. is a wholly owned subsidiary of Fresenius Medical Care Holdings, Inc. (FMC or Fresenius).

Need Determination (Condition 2)

Chapter 9 of the 2021 State Medical Facilities Plan (SMFP) provides a county need methodology and a facility need methodology for determining the need for new dialysis

stations. According to Table 9C, the county need methodology shows there is not a county need determination for additional dialysis stations in Johnston County.

However, the applicant is eligible to apply for additional dialysis stations in an existing facility pursuant to Condition 2 of the facility need methodology in the 2021 SMFP, if the utilization rate for the dialysis center, as reported in the 2021 SMFP, is at least 75 percent or 3.0 patients per station per week, as stated in Condition 2.a. The utilization rate reported for Johnston Dialysis Center in Table 9A, page 125 of the 2021 SMFP, is 98.44% or 3.94 patients per station per week, based on 126 in-center dialysis patients and 32 certified dialysis stations as of December 31, 2019 [$126 / 32 = 3.9375$; $3.94 / 4 = 0.9844$]. Therefore, the applicant exceeds the minimum utilization required in Condition 2.a and is eligible to apply for additional stations based on the facility need methodology in Condition 2.b.

As shown in Table 9D, page 139 of the 2021 SMFP, based on the facility need methodology for dialysis stations, the potential number of stations needed at Johnston Dialysis Center is up to twenty additional stations; thus, the applicant is eligible to apply to add up to twenty additional dialysis stations during the 2021 SMFP review cycle pursuant to Condition 2 of the facility need methodology.

The applicant proposes to add no more than seven new dialysis stations to Johnston Dialysis Center, which is consistent with the 2021 SMFP calculated facility need determination; therefore, the application is consistent with Condition 2 of the facility need determination for dialysis stations.

Policies

There is one policy in the 2021 SMFP which is applicable to this review. *Policy GEN-3: Basic Principles*, on page 29 of the 2021 SMFP, states:

“A certificate of need applicant applying to develop or offer a new institutional health service for which there is a need determination in the North Carolina State Medical Facilities Plan shall demonstrate how the project will promote safety and quality in the delivery of health care services while promoting equitable access and maximizing healthcare value for resources expended. A certificate of need applicant shall document its plans for providing access to services for patients with limited financial resources and demonstrate the availability of capacity to provide these services. A certificate of need applicant shall also document how its projected volumes incorporate these concepts in meeting the need identified in the State Medical Facilities Plan as well as addressing the needs of all residents in the proposed service area.”

Promote Safety and Quality

The applicant describes how it believes the proposed project will promote safety and quality in Section B, page 21; Section N, page 71; Section O, pages 73-76; and referenced exhibits. The information provided by the applicant is reasonable and adequately supports the determination that the applicant’s proposal will promote safety and quality.

Promote Equitable Access

The applicant describes how it believes the proposed project will promote equitable access in Section B, page 22; Section C.6, page 31; Section L, pages 64-67; Section N, page 71; and referenced exhibits. The information provided by the applicant is reasonable and supports the determination that the applicant's proposal will promote equitable access.

Maximize Healthcare Value

The applicant describes how it believes the proposed project will maximize healthcare value in Section B, pages 22-23; Section N, page 71; and referenced exhibits. The information provided by the applicant with regard to its efforts to maximize healthcare value is reasonable and supports the determination that the applicant's proposal will maximize healthcare value.

The applicant adequately demonstrates how its proposal incorporates the concepts of quality, equitable access, and maximum value for resources expended in meeting the facility need as identified by the applicant. Therefore, the application is consistent with Policy GEN-3.

Conclusion

The Agency reviewed the:

- Application
- Exhibits to the application
- Information publicly available during the review and used by the Agency

Based on that review, the Agency concludes that the application is conforming to this criterion based on the following reasons:

- The applicant adequately demonstrates that the application is consistent with Condition 2 of the facility need methodology as applied from the 2021 SMFP.
- The applicant adequately demonstrates that the application is consistent with Policy GEN-3 because the applicant adequately demonstrates how Johnston Dialysis Center's projected volumes incorporate the concepts of quality, equitable access and maximum value for resources expended in meeting the facility need.

- (2) Repealed effective July 1, 1987.
- (3) The applicant shall identify the population to be served by the proposed project, and shall demonstrate the need that this population has for the services proposed, and the extent to which all residents of the area, and, in particular, low income persons, racial and ethnic minorities, women, ... persons [with disabilities], the elderly, and other underserved groups are likely to have access to the services proposed.

The applicant proposes to add no more than seven dialysis stations pursuant to Condition 2 of the facility need methodology for a total of no more than 33 stations upon completion of this project and Project ID# J-012128-21 (relocate 7).

The following table, summarized from page 15 of the application, shows the current and projected number of dialysis stations at Johnston Dialysis Center:

Johnston Dialysis Center		
# OF STATIONS	DESCRIPTION	PROJECT ID #
33	Total # of existing certified stations as reported in the SMFP in effect on the day the review will begin	
7	# of stations to be added as part of this project	
0	# of stations to be deleted as part of this project	
0	# of stations previously approved to be added but not yet certified	
-7	# of stations previously approved to be deleted but not yet certified	J-12128-21*
0	# of stations proposed to be added in an application still under review	
0	# of stations proposed to be deleted in an application still under review	
33	Total # of stations upon completion of all facility projects	

*Stations being relocated from Johnston Dialysis Center and have yet to be certified at FKC East Johnston

As illustrated in the table above, in this application, the applicant proposes to add seven dialysis stations for a total of 33 stations upon project completion.

Patient Origin

On page 113, the 2021 SMFP defines the service area for dialysis stations as “...the service area is the county in which the dialysis station is located. Each county comprises a service area except for two multicounty service areas: Cherokee, Clay and Graham counties and Avery, Mitchell and Yancey counties.” The facility referred to in this application is located in Johnston County. Thus, the service area for this facility consists of Johnston County. Facilities may serve residents of counties not included in their service area.

In Sections C.2 and C.3, pages 25 and 26, the applicant provides the historical and projected in-center (IC) patient origin for Johnston Dialysis Center during the last full operating year, January 1, 2020 – December 31, 2020 (CY 2020), and the projected patient origin for the second full operating year following project completion, January 1, 2024 - December 31, 2024(CY 2024), as summarized in the following table:

Johnston Dialysis Center Historical & Projected Patient Origin				
	Historical (CY 2020)		Projected (CY 2024)	
	# of IC Patients	% of Patients	# of IC Patients	% of Patients
Johnston	116	98.3%	143.6	98.6%
Wilson	2	1.7%	2	1.4%
Total	118	100.0%	145.6	100.0%

In Section C, pages 26-27, the applicant provides the assumptions and methodology it used to project patient origin. The applicant's assumptions are reasonable and adequately supported, based on the following:

- The applicant projects patient origin at Johnston Dialysis Center based on its existing population.
- The applicant increases the number of projected future patients based on the Five-Year Average Annual Change Rate of Johnston County.

Analysis of Need

In Section C.4, pages 28-29, the applicant explains why it believes the population projected to utilize the proposed services needs the proposed services. The applicant discusses the need based on the patient growth rate at Johnston Dialysis Center and in Johnston County over the last year. The applicant states:

- The patient population requires frequent treatments. Patients typically receive three (3) treatments per week and either dialyze on a Monday/Wednesday/Friday morning or afternoon or Tuesday/Thursday/Saturday morning or afternoon. If patients do not receive sufficient treatments, it will lead to the patients' demise.
- Johnston Dialysis Center's projected patient population for the first full operating year (OY) (01/01/2023 to 12/31/2023) is projected to grow to 134 in-center patients with a utilization rate of 101.5%, or 4.06 patients per station per week.
- The OY projections for patient population is based upon the 8.8% Johnston County Five Year Average Annual Change Rate (AACR) as indicated in Table 9B, page 134, of the 2021 SMFP.
- The applicant does not project growth for patients who reside outside of Johnston County.

The information is reasonable and adequately supported for the following:

- According to the 2021 SMFP, as of December 31, 2019, Johnston Dialysis Center was operating at a rate of 3.94 patients per station per week, or 98.44 percent of capacity.
- The applicant adequately demonstrates the need to add seven dialysis stations pursuant to the facility need methodology based on its existing and future patient population.

Projected Utilization

In Section Q, pages 80-81, the applicant provides its projected utilization methodology, based on its stated assumptions. The projected in-center utilization is summarized in the following table.

JOHNSTON DIALYSIS CENTER IN-CENTER PATIENTS

Begin with facility census of Johnston County patients as of Dec. 31, 2020.	116
Project this population forward one year to December 31, 2021, using the Johnston County Five Year AACR of 8.8%.	$116 \times 1.088 = 126.2$
Project this population forward one year to December 31, 2022, using the Johnston County Five Year AACR of 8.8%.	$126.2 \times 1.088 = 137.3$
Subtract 16 patients from Johnston County projected to transfer their care to the FKC East Johnston facility.	$137.3 - 16 = 121.3$
Add the two patients from Wilson County. This is the projected starting census for this project.	$121.3 + 2 = 123.3$
Project Johnston County patients forward one year to December 31, 2023, using the Johnston County Five Year AACR of 8.8%.	$121.3 \times 1.088 = 132.0$
Add the two Wilson County patients. This is the projected ending census for Operating Year 1(OY1).	$132.0 + 2 = 134.0$
Project Johnston County patients forward one year to December 31, 2024, using the Johnston County Five Year AACR of 8.8%.	$132.0 \times 1.088 = 143.6$
Add the two Wilson County patients. This is the projected ending census for operating year 2 (OY2).	$143.6 + 2 = 145.6$

Source: Table in Section Q, page 81

At the end of OY1 (CY2023) Johnston Dialysis Center is projected to serve 134.0 in-center patients on 33 stations; and at the end of OY2 (CY2024) the facility is projected to serve 145.6 in-center patients on 33 stations.

The projected utilization rates for the first two operating years are as follows:

- OY1: 4.1 patients per station per week, or 101.5% utilization [$134 \text{ patients} / 33 \text{ dialysis stations} = 4.1$; $4.1 / 4 = 1.0152$].
- OY 2: 4.4 patients per station per week, or 110.3% utilization [$145.6 \text{ patients} / 33 \text{ dialysis stations} = 4.41$; $4.41 / 4 = 1.1030$].

The projected utilization of 4.1 patients per station per week at the end of OY1 exceeds the minimum standard of 2.8 in-center patients per station per week as required by 10A NCAC 14C .2203(b).

Projected utilization is reasonable and adequately supported for the following reasons:

- Johnston Dialysis Center was operating at 98.44% capacity as of December 31, 2019, as reported in the 2021 SMFP which exceeds the required minimum utilization of 75%.
- The applicant projects growth in the Johnston County patient population using the Johnston County Five Year AACR of 8.8% as published in the 2021 SMFP.

- The applicant does not project growth for patients residing outside of Johnston County.
- Projected IC utilization at the end of OY1 exceeds the minimum of 2.8 patients per station per week as required by 10A NCAC 14C .2203(b) and exceeds this threshold at the end of OY2.

Access

In Section C.6, page 31, the applicant states:

“Each of our facilities has a patient population which includes low-income persons, racial and ethnic minorities, women, handicapped persons, elderly, or other traditionally underserved persons.

...

Fresenius Medical Care and its related facilities in North Carolina have historically provided substantial care and services to all persons in need of dialysis services, regardless of income, racial or ethnic background, gender, handicap, age or any other grouping/category or basis for being an underserved person.”

On page 31, the applicant provides the following estimated percentages of dialysis patients for each medically underserved group during the second year of operation following completion of the project, as summarized in the following table.

Johnston Dialysis Center
Projected Estimated Percentage of Total Patients for Each Group

	Estimated Percentage of Patients by Group
Low Income Persons	57.7%
Racial and Ethnic Minorities	74.8%
Women	47.7%
Persons with Disabilities	45.9%
Elderly	63.1%
Medicare Beneficiaries	85.6%
Medicaid Recipients	57.7%

Note: A single patient can be counted in multiple categories.

The applicant adequately describes the extent to which all residents of the service area, including underserved groups, are likely to have access to the proposed services based on the following:

- The applicant currently serves the needs of medically underserved groups that utilize ESRD services and provides evidence that it will continue to do so.
- The applicant has policies in place to prevent discrimination.

Conclusion

The Agency reviewed the:

- Application
- Exhibits to the application
- Information publicly available during the review and used by the Agency

Based on that review, the Agency concludes that the application is conforming to this criterion for all the reasons described above.

- (3a) In the case of a reduction or elimination of a service, including the relocation of a facility or a service, the applicant shall demonstrate that the needs of the population presently served will be met adequately by the proposed relocation or by alternative arrangements, and the effect of the reduction, elimination or relocation of the service on the ability of low income persons, racial and ethnic minorities, women, ... persons [with disabilities], and other underserved groups and the elderly to obtain needed health care.

NA

The applicant does not propose to reduce a service, eliminate a service, or relocate a facility or service. Therefore, Criterion (3a) is not applicable to this review.

- (4) Where alternative methods of meeting the needs for the proposed project exist, the applicant shall demonstrate that the least costly or most effective alternative has been proposed.

CA

The applicant proposes to add no more than seven dialysis stations pursuant to Condition 2 of the facility need methodology for a total of no more than 33 stations upon completion of this project and Project ID# J-012128-21 (relocate 7).

In Section E, page 39, the applicant describes the alternatives it considered and explains why each alternative is either more costly or less effective than the alternative proposed in this application to meet the need. The alternatives considered were:

- *Maintain the status quo* – the applicant states that maintaining the status quo is not an effective alternative due to the growth of the ESRD patient population residing in the Johnston Dialysis Center area.
- *Apply for fewer than seven dialysis stations* – the applicant states this alternative fails to recognize the growth of the ESRD patient population residing in the Johnston Dialysis Center area and resulting increase in utilization rates.
- *Apply for more than seven dialysis stations* – the applicant states this alternative is not cost effective as the facility does not have the physical space to add more than seven dialysis stations.

The applicant adequately demonstrates that the alternative proposed in this application is the most effective alternative to meet the need for the following reasons:

- The application is conforming to all statutory and regulatory review criteria.
- The applicant provides credible information to explain why it believes the proposed project is the most effective alternative.

Conclusion

The Agency reviewed the:

- Application
- Exhibits to the application
- Information publicly available during the review and used by the Agency

Based on that review, the Agency concludes that the application is conforming to this criterion for the reasons stated above. Therefore, the application is approved subject to the following conditions:

- 1. Bio-Medical Applications of North Carolina, Inc. (hereinafter certificate holder) shall materially comply with all representations made in the certificate of need application.**
- 2. Pursuant to Condition 2 of the facility need determination in the 2021 SMFP, the certificate holder shall develop no more than seven additional in-center dialysis stations for a total of no more than 33 in-center stations at Johnston Dialysis Center upon completion of this project and Project ID# J-012128-21 (relocate 7).**
- 3. Progress Reports:**
 - a. Pursuant to G.S. 131E-189(a), the certificate holder shall submit periodic reports on the progress being made to develop the project consistent with the timetable and representations made in the application on the Progress Report form provided by the Healthcare Planning and Certificate of Need Section. The form is available online at: <https://info.ncdhhs.gov/dhsr/coneed/progressreport.html>.**
 - b. The certificate holder shall complete all sections of the Progress Report form.**
 - c. The certificate holder shall describe in detail all steps taken to develop the project since the last progress report and should include documentation to substantiate each step taken as available.**
 - d. Progress reports shall be due on the first day of every fourth month. The first progress report shall be due on August 1, 2022. The second progress report shall be due on December 1, 2022 and so forth.**

4. The certificate holder shall acknowledge acceptance of and agree to comply with all conditions stated herein to the Agency in writing prior to issuance of the certificate of need.

- (5) Financial and operational projections for the project shall demonstrate the availability of funds for capital and operating needs as well as the immediate and long-term financial feasibility of the proposal, based upon reasonable projections of the costs of and charges for providing health services by the person proposing the service.

C

The applicant proposes to add no more than seven dialysis stations pursuant to Condition 2 of the facility need methodology for a total of no more than 33 stations upon completion of this project and Project ID# J-012128-21 (relocate 7).

Capital and Working Capital Costs

In Section F, pages 40-42, the applicant projects no capital costs, start-up or initial operating expenses associated with this project because the leased equipment will be installed in space previously used for dialysis.

Financial Feasibility

The applicant provides pro forma financial statements for the first two full operating years following completion of the project. In Form F.2, page 85, the applicant projects that revenues will exceed operating expenses in each of the first two operating years of the project, as summarized in the table below.

	OY 1 CY2023	OY 2 CY2024
Total Treatments	19,041	20,690
Total Gross Revenue (charges)	\$119,783,885	\$130,160,998
Total Net Revenue	\$5,480,155	\$5,954,911
Average Net Revenue per Treatment	\$288	\$288
Total Operating Expenses (costs)	\$4,166,040	\$4,363,862
Average Operating Expense per Treatment	\$219	\$211
Net Income / Profit	\$1,314,114	\$1,591,049

The assumptions used by the applicant in preparation of the pro forma financial statements are provided in Section Q of the application. The applicant adequately demonstrates that the financial feasibility of the proposal is reasonable and adequately supported based on the following:

- The applicant bases charges and expenses on historical revenue and expenses for BMA's North Carolina facilities.

- Projected utilization is based on reasonable and adequately supported assumptions. See the discussion regarding projected utilization found in Criterion (3) which is incorporated herein by reference.

Conclusion

The Agency reviewed the:

- Application
- Exhibits to the application

Based on that review, the Agency concludes that the application is conforming to this criterion for the following reasons:

- The applicant adequately demonstrates sufficient funds for the operating needs of the proposal and that the financial feasibility of the proposal is based upon reasonable projections of revenues and operating expenses for all the reasons described above.
- (6) The applicant shall demonstrate that the proposed project will not result in unnecessary duplication of existing or approved health service capabilities or facilities.

C

The applicant proposes to add no more than seven dialysis stations pursuant to Condition 2 of the facility need methodology for a total of no more than 33 stations upon completion of this project and Project ID# J-012128-21 (relocate 7).

On page 113, the 2021 SMFP defines the service area for dialysis stations as “*the service area is the county in which the dialysis station is located. Each county comprises a service area except for two multicounty service areas: Cherokee-Clay-Graham counties and Avery-Mitchell-Yancey counties.*” Thus, the service area for this facility is Johnston County. Facilities may serve residents of counties not included in their service area.

According to Table 9A of the 2022 SMFP, there are seven existing or approved dialysis facilities in Johnston County, six of which are owned and operated by BMA. Information on these dialysis facilities, from Table 9A, page 126 of the 2022 SMFP is provided below:

**Johnston County Dialysis Facilities
 Certified Stations and Utilization as of December 31, 2020**

Dialysis Facility	Owner	Certified Stations as of 12/31/2020	# of IC Patients as of 12/31/2020	Percent Utilization as of 12/31/2020	Patients Per Station Per Week as of 12/31/2020
FMC Four Oaks	BMA	20	60	75.00%	3.0000
FMC Stallings Station-Garner*	BMA	0	0	0.00%	0.0000
FMC Stallings Station-Clayton	BMA	24	89	92.71%	3.7083
Johnston Dialysis Center	BMA	33	118	89.39%	3.5758
FKC East Johnston	BMA	10	14	35.00%	1.4000
FKC West Johnston*	BMA	0	0	0.00%	0.0000
Clayton Dialysis	Total Renal Care	0	0	0.00%	0.0000
Total		79	282		

*Proposed new site consisting of existing stations

In Section G, page 48, the applicant explains why it believes the proposal would not result in the unnecessary duplication of existing or approved dialysis services in Johnston County. The applicant states:

“This is an application based on facility performance and demonstrated need at Johnston Dialysis Center. The need addressed by this application is not specific to Johnston county as a whole.

.....

Of the four BMA facilities operating in Johnston County as of December 31, 2020, only the FKC East Johnston facility utilization was markedly low at December 31, 2020. The FKC East Johnston facility was only accredited in September 2020, and then was used as an area COVID 19 clinic for the remainder of 2020. BMA chose to treat COVID 19 positive patients at this facility in order to reduce exposure to the virus at the other BMA facilities in the area. Consequently, utilization is reported lower than what would be expected. Again, on the whole the utilization in BMA facilities in Johnston County was 80.75% at the end of 2020.”

The applicant adequately demonstrates that the proposal would not result in an unnecessary duplication of existing or approved services in the service area based on the following:

- There is a need determination in the 2021 SMFP at Johnston Dialysis Center for twenty dialysis stations. The applicant proposes to add seven dialysis stations.
- Johnston Dialysis Center is currently operating at or above the ESRD performance standard of 2.8 patients per station per week.
- The applicant adequately demonstrates that Johnston Dialysis Center will be operating above 2.8 patients per station per week in its projected utilization, which is primarily

based on historical Johnston County patient utilization increased by the Five-Year AACR of 8.8% for Johnston County.

- The applicant adequately demonstrates that the proposed addition of seven stations is needed in addition to the existing and approved dialysis services in Johnston County.

Conclusion

The Agency reviewed the:

- Application
- Exhibits to the application
- Information publicly available during the review and used by the Agency

Based on that review, the Agency concludes that the application is conforming to this criterion for the reasons stated above.

- (7) The applicant shall show evidence of the availability of resources, including health manpower and management personnel, for the provision of the services proposed to be provided.

C

The applicant proposes to add no more than seven dialysis stations pursuant to Condition 2 of the facility need methodology for a total of no more than 33 stations upon completion of this project and Project ID# J-012128-21 (relocate 7).

In Section Q Form H Staffing, the applicant provides a table showing current and projected staffing in full time equivalent (FTE) positions for Johnston Dialysis Center, as illustrated in the following table.

Position	Current FTE Staff	Projected FTE Staff	Projected FTE Staff
	As of 7/15/2021	OY1 (1/1/2023 to 12/31/2023)	OY2 (1/1/2024 to 12/31/2024)
Administrator	1.00	1.00	1.00
RNs	4.00	4.00	4.00
Technicians (PCT)	12.70	12.70	12.70
Dietician	1.00	1.00	1.00
Social Worker	1.00	1.00	1.00
Maintenance	1.00	1.00	1.00
Admin/Business Office	2.00	2.00	2.00
Other: FMC Dir. Operations	0.15	0.15	0.15
Other: In-Service	0.25	0.25	0.25
Other: Chief Tech	0.35	0.35	0.35
TOTAL	23.45	23.45	23.45

The assumptions and methodology used to project staffing are provided in Section Q. Adequate operating expenses for the health manpower and management positions proposed by the applicant are budgeted in Form F.4 Operating Costs. In Section H, pages 49-50, the applicant describes the methods used to recruit or fill new positions and its existing training and continuing education programs. In Exhibit H-4, the applicant provides a letter from the medical director indicating an interest in continuing to serve as medical director for the proposed services.

The applicant adequately demonstrates the availability of sufficient health manpower and management personnel to provide the proposed services based on the following:

- The applicant states that the current staffing is appropriate for dialysis facility operations and does not project a need to increase the FTE staffing positions at Johnston Dialysis Center.
- The increased costs of annual salary increases are accounted for in the budgeted Operating Costs.
- The methods used to recruit or fill new positions and the existing training and continuing education programs are provided.
- A letter from the current medical director indicating an interest in continuing to serve as medical director for the proposed services is provided.

Conclusion

The Agency reviewed the:

- Application
- Exhibits to the application

Based on that review, the Agency concludes that the application is conforming to this criterion for the reasons described above.

- (8) The applicant shall demonstrate that the provider of the proposed services will make available, or otherwise make arrangements for, the provision of the necessary ancillary and support services. The applicant shall also demonstrate that the proposed service will be coordinated with the existing health care system.

C

The applicant proposes to add no more than seven dialysis stations pursuant to Condition 2 of the facility need methodology for a total of no more than 33 stations upon completion of this project and Project ID# J-012128-21 (relocate 7).

Ancillary and Support Services

In Section I, pages 51-56, the applicant identifies the necessary ancillary and support services for the proposed services and explains how each ancillary and support service is and will continue to be made available. The applicant adequately demonstrates that the necessary ancillary and support services will be made available based on the following:

- The applicant identifies the necessary ancillary and support services for dialysis patients located in or near Johnston County and how these will be made available.
- The applicant describes how the necessary ancillary and support services will be coordinated with the existing healthcare system.

Coordination

In Section I, page 56, the applicant describes its existing relationships with other local health care and social service providers. The applicant adequately demonstrates that the proposed services will be coordinated with the existing health care system based on the following:

- The applicant has numerous years of experience serving the needs of dialysis patients.
- The applicant has established relationships with community health care and ancillary service providers where dialysis patients can receive appropriate referrals for necessary services related to their condition.
- The applicant provides a letter from the Medical Director in Exhibit H.4. committing to the continuation of the established relationships.

Conclusion

The Agency reviewed the:

- Application
- Exhibits to the application

Based on that review, the Agency concludes that the application is conforming to this criterion.

- (9) An applicant proposing to provide a substantial portion of the project's services to individuals not residing in the health service area in which the project is located, or in adjacent health service areas, shall document the special needs and circumstances that warrant service to these individuals.

NA

The applicant does not project to provide the proposed services to a substantial number of persons residing in Health Service Areas (HSAs) that are not adjacent to the HSA in which the services will be offered. Furthermore, the applicant does not project to provide the proposed services to a substantial number of persons residing in other states that are not adjacent to the North Carolina county in which the services will be offered.

- (10) When applicable, the applicant shall show that the special needs of health maintenance organizations will be fulfilled by the project. Specifically, the applicant shall show that the project accommodates: (a) The needs of enrolled members and reasonably anticipated new members of the HMO for the health service to be provided by the organization; and (b) The availability of new health services from non-HMO providers or other HMOs in a reasonable and cost-effective manner which is consistent with the basic method of operation of the HMO. In assessing the availability of these health services from these providers, the applicant shall consider only whether the services from these providers:
- (i) would be available under a contract of at least 5 years duration;
 - (ii) would be available and conveniently accessible through physicians and other health professionals associated with the HMO;
 - (iii) would cost no more than if the services were provided by the HMO; and
 - (iv) would be available in a manner which is administratively feasible to the HMO.

NA

- (11) Repealed effective July 1, 1987.
- (12) Applications involving construction shall demonstrate that the cost, design, and means of construction proposed represent the most reasonable alternative, and that the construction project will not unduly increase the costs of providing health services by the person proposing the construction project or the costs and charges to the public of providing health services by other persons, and that applicable energy saving features have been incorporated into the construction plans.

NA

The applicant does not propose to construct any new space or renovate any existing space. Therefore, Criterion (12) is not applicable to this review.

- (13) The applicant shall demonstrate the contribution of the proposed service in meeting the health-related needs of the elderly and of members of medically underserved groups, such as medically indigent or low income persons, Medicaid and Medicare recipients, racial and ethnic minorities, women, and ... persons [with disabilities], which have traditionally experienced

difficulties in obtaining equal access to the proposed services, particularly those needs identified in the State Health Plan as deserving of priority. For the purpose of determining the extent to which the proposed service will be accessible, the applicant shall show:

- (a) The extent to which medically underserved populations currently use the applicant's existing services in comparison to the percentage of the population in the applicant's service area which is medically underserved;

C

In Section L, page 64, the applicant provides the historical payor mix for Johnston Dialysis Center during the last full operating year (CY2020) for its existing services, as shown in the table below.

**Johnston Dialysis Center
Historical Payor Mix CY 2020**

Payor Category	Services as Percent of Total
Self-Pay	6.0%
Insurance*	7.7%
Medicare*	68.9%
Medicaid*	13.3%
Other (Misc. including VA)	4.0%
Total	100.00%

*Including any managed care plans
Numbers may not foot due to rounding

In Section L, page 65, the applicant provides the following comparison.

	Percentage of Total Patients Served by the Facility or Campus during the Last Full OY	Percentage of the Population in the Service Area *
Female	47.7%	51.0%
Male	52.3%	49.0%
Unknown	0.0%	0.0%
64 and Younger	36.9%	86.4%
65 and Older	63.1%	13.6%
American Indian	0.0%	0.9%
Asian	0.9%	0.9%
Black or African-American	55.9%	17.0%
Native Hawaiian or Pacific Islander	0.0%	0.1%
White or Caucasian	25.2%	66.8%
Other Race	18.0%	14.3%
Declined / Unavailable	0.0%	0.0%

*The percentages can be found online using the United States Census Bureau's QuickFacts which is at: <https://www.census.gov/quickfacts/fact/table/US/PST045218>. Just enter in the name of the county.

The Agency reviewed the:

- Application
- Exhibits to the application
- Information which was publicly available during the review and used by the Agency

Based on that review, the Agency concludes that the applicant adequately documents the extent to which medically underserved populations currently use the applicant's existing services in comparison to the percentage of the population in the applicant's service area which is medically underserved. Therefore, the application is conforming to this criterion.

- (b) Its past performance in meeting its obligation, if any, under any applicable regulations requiring provision of uncompensated care, community service, or access by minorities and ... persons [with disabilities] to programs receiving federal assistance, including the existence of any civil rights access complaints against the applicant;

C

Regarding any obligation to provide uncompensated care, community service, or access by minorities and persons with disabilities, the applicant states in Section L,

page 65, that the facility is not under any obligation to provide uncompensated care, community service, or access by minorities and handicapped persons.

In Section L, page 65, the applicant states that during the 18 months immediately preceding the application deadline no patient civil rights access complaints have been filed against the facility or any similar facilities owned by the applicant or a related entity and located in North Carolina.

The Agency reviewed the:

- Application
- Exhibits to the application

Based on that review, the Agency concludes that the application is conforming to this criterion.

- (c) That the elderly and the medically underserved groups identified in this subdivision will be served by the applicant's proposed services and the extent to which each of these groups is expected to utilize the proposed services; and

C

In Section L.3, page 66, the applicant projects the following payor mix during the second full fiscal year of operation following completion of the project, as summarized in the following table.

**Johnston Dialysis Center
Projected Payor Mix CY2024**

Payment Source	# of Patients	% of Total
Self-Pay	8.8	6.0%
Insurance*	11.3	7.7%
Medicare*	100.4	68.9%
Medicaid*	19.3	13.3%
Other (Misc. including VA and Medicare advantage)	5.8	4.0%
Total	145.6	100.0%

*Including any managed care plans
Numbers may not foot due to rounding

As shown in the table above, in the second full year of operation, the applicant projects that 6.0% of in-center dialysis services will be provided to self-pay patients, 68.9% to Medicare patients, and 13.3% to Medicaid patients.

On page 66, the applicant provides the assumptions and methodology it uses to project payor mix during the second full year of operation following completion of the project, stating the payor mix is based upon recent facility history of actual treatment volumes.

The projected payor mix is reasonable and adequately supported because the projected payor mix is based on the historical payor mix and treatment volumes of Johnston Dialysis Center.

The Agency reviewed the:

- Application
- Exhibits to the application

Based on that review, the Agency concludes that the application is conforming to this criterion.

- (d) That the applicant offers a range of means by which a person will have access to its services. Examples of a range of means are outpatient services, admission by house staff, and admission by personal physicians.

C

In Section L.5, page 68, the applicant adequately describes the range of means by which patients will have access to the proposed services.

The Agency reviewed the:

- Application
- Exhibits to the application

Based on that review, the Agency concludes that the application is conforming to this criterion.

- (14) The applicant shall demonstrate that the proposed health services accommodate the clinical needs of health professional training programs in the area, as applicable.

C

In Section M, page 69, the applicant describes the extent to which health professional training programs in the area will have access to the facility for training purposes and provides supporting documentation in Exhibit M-2. The applicant adequately demonstrates that health professional training programs in the area have access to the facility for training purposes based on the following:

- The applicant offers the facility as a clinical learning site for students from Johnston Community College.
- The applicant provides a copy of the letter sent to Johnston Community College offering training opportunities in Exhibit M-2.

Conclusion

The Agency reviewed the:

- Application
- Exhibits to the application

Based on that review, the Agency concludes that the applicant adequately demonstrates that the proposed services will accommodate the clinical needs of area health professional training programs, and therefore, the application is conforming to this criterion.

- (15) Repealed effective July 1, 1987.
- (16) Repealed effective July 1, 1987.
- (17) Repealed effective July 1, 1987.
- (18) Repealed effective July 1, 1987.

- (18a) The applicant shall demonstrate the expected effects of the proposed services on competition in the proposed service area, including how any enhanced competition will have a positive impact upon the cost effectiveness, quality, and access to the services proposed; and in the case of applications for services where competition between providers will not have a favorable impact on cost-effectiveness, quality, and access to the services proposed, the applicant shall demonstrate that its application is for a service on which competition will not have a favorable impact.

C

The applicant proposes to add no more than seven dialysis stations pursuant to Condition 2 of the facility need methodology for a total of no more than 33 stations upon project completion.

On page 113, the 2021 SMFP defines the service area for dialysis stations as “*the service area is the county in which the dialysis station is located. Each county comprises a service area except for two multicounty service areas: Cherokee-Clay-Graham counties and Avery-Mitchell-Yancey counties.*” Thus, the service area for this facility is Johnston County. Facilities may serve residents of counties not included in their service area.

According to Table 9A of the 2022 SMFP, there are seven existing or approved dialysis facilities in Johnston County, six of which are owned and operated by BMA. Information on these dialysis facilities, from Table 9A, page 126 of the 2022 SMFP is provided below:

**Johnston County Dialysis Facilities
 Certified Stations and Utilization as of December 31, 2020**

Dialysis Facility	Owner	Certified Stations as of 12/31/2020	# of IC Patients as of 12/31/2020	Percent Utilization as of 12/31/2020	Patients Per Station Per Week as of 12/31/2020
FMC Four Oaks	BMA	20	60	75.00%	3.0000
FMC Stallings Station-Garner*	BMA	0	0	0.00%	0.0000
FMC Stallings Station-Clayton	BMA	24	89	92.71%	3.7083
Johnston Dialysis Center	BMA	33	118	89.39%	3.5758
FKC East Johnston	BMA	10	14	35.00%	1.4000
FKC West Johnston*	BMA	0	0	0.00%	0.0000
Clayton Dialysis	Total Renal Care	0	0	0.00%	0.0000
Total		79	282		

*Proposed new site consisting of existing stations

Regarding the expected effects of the proposal on competition in the service area, in Section N, page 70, the applicant states:

“The applicant does not expect this proposal to have any effect on the competitive climate in Johnston County. The applicant does not project to serve dialysis patients currently being served by another provider.”

Regarding the impact of the proposal on cost effectiveness, in Section N, page 71, the applicant states:

“The applicant is serving a significant number of dialysis patients residing in the area of the facility. Approval of this application will allow the facility to serve patients of the area in a convenient setting. As a result, these patients will have a shorter commute to and from dialysis treatment. This is an immediate and significantly positive impact to the patients of the area.”

See also Sections B, C, F, and Q of the application and any exhibits.

Regarding the impact of the proposal on quality, in Section N, page 71, the applicant states:

“Quality care is not negotiable. ... Our organizational mission statement captures this sentiment very well:

‘We deliver superior care that improves that quality of life of every patient, every day, setting the standard by which others in the healthcare industry are judged.’”

See also Sections B, C and O of the application and any exhibits.

Regarding the impact of the proposal on access by medically underserved groups, in Section N, page 71, the applicant states:

“It is corporate policy to provide all services to all patients regardless of income, racial/ethnic origin, gender, physical or mental conditions, age, or any other factor that would classify a patient as underserved.

Fresenius related facilities in North Carolina have historically provided substantial care and services to all persons in need of dialysis services, regardless of income, racial or ethnic background, gender, handicap, age or any other grouping/category or basis for being an underserved person.”

See also Sections B, C and L of the application and any exhibits.

The applicant adequately describes the expected effects of the proposed services on competition in the service area and adequately demonstrates the proposal would have a positive impact on cost-effectiveness, quality, and access because the applicant adequately demonstrates that:

- 1) The proposal is cost effective because the applicant adequately demonstrated: a) the need the population to be served has for the proposal; b) that the proposal would not result in an unnecessary duplication of existing and approved health services; and c) that projected revenues and operating costs are reasonable.
- 2) Quality care would be provided based on the applicant’s representations about how it will ensure the quality of the proposed services and the applicant’s record of providing quality care in the past.
- 3) Medically underserved groups will have access to the proposed services based on the applicant’s representations about access by medically underserved groups and the projected payor mix.

Conclusion

The Agency reviewed the:

- Application
- Exhibits to the application
- Information which was publicly available during the review and used by the Agency

Based on that review, the Agency concludes that the application is conforming to this criterion based on the reasons stated above.

- (19) Repealed effective July 1, 1987.
- (20) An applicant already involved in the provision of health services shall provide evidence that quality care has been provided in the past.

In Section Q Form A Facilities, the applicant identifies the kidney disease treatment centers located in North Carolina owned, operated, or managed by the applicant or a related entity. The applicant identifies over 120 dialysis facilities owned, operated, or managed by the applicant or a related entity located in North Carolina.

In Section O, page 76, the applicant states that, during the 18 months immediately preceding the submittal of the application, no incidents related to quality of care that resulted in a finding of “*Immediate Jeopardy*” occurred in any of these facilities. After reviewing and considering information provided by the applicant and publicly available data and considering the quality of care provided at all Fresenius related facilities, the applicant provides sufficient evidence that quality care has been provided in the past. Therefore, the application is conforming to this criterion.

(21) Repealed effective July 1, 1987.

G.S. 131E-183 (b): The Department is authorized to adopt rules for the review of particular types of applications that will be used in addition to those criteria outlined in subsection (a) of this section and may vary according to the purpose for which a particular review is being conducted or the type of health service reviewed. No such rule adopted by the Department shall require an academic medical center teaching hospital, as defined by the State Medical Facilities Plan, to demonstrate that any facility or service at another hospital is being appropriately utilized in order for that academic medical center teaching hospital to be approved for the issuance of a certificate of need to develop any similar facility or service.

C

The application is conforming with all applicable Criteria and Standards for End Stage Renal Disease Services. The specific criteria are discussed below.

10 NCAC 14C .2203 PERFORMANCE STANDARDS

(a) *An applicant proposing to establish a new kidney disease treatment center or dialysis facility shall document the need for at least 10 dialysis stations based on utilization of 2.8 in-center patients per station per week as of the end of the first 12 months of operation following certification of the facility. An applicant may document the need for less than 10 stations if the application is submitted in response to an adjusted need determination in the State Medical Facilities Plan for less than 10 stations.*

-NA- Johnston Dialysis Center is an existing facility. Therefore, this Rule is not applicable to this review.

(b) *An applicant proposing to increase the number of dialysis stations in:*

(1) an existing dialysis facility; or

(2) a dialysis facility that is not operational as of the date the certificate of need application is submitted but has been issued a certificate of need; shall document the need for the total number of dialysis stations in the facility based on 2.8 in-center patients per station per week as of the end of the first 12 months of operation following certification of the additional stations.

- C- In Section C, pages 27, and Form C in Section Q, the applicant projects that Johnston Dialysis Center will serve 134.0 in-center patients on 33 stations, or a rate of 4 patients per station per week or 101.5% ($134.0 / 33 = 4.06/4 = 1.015$ or 101.5%), as of the end of the first operating year (CY2023) following project completion. This exceeds the minimum performance standard requirement of 2.8 patients per station per week. The discussion regarding projected utilization found in Criterion (3) is incorporated herein by reference.
- (c) *An applicant shall provide all assumptions, including the methodology by which patient utilization is projected.*
- C- In Section C, pages 26-27, in Section Q, Form C, pages 80-81, the applicant provides the assumptions and methodology it used to project utilization of the facility. The discussion regarding projected utilization found in Criterion (3) is incorporated herein by reference.