



NORTH CAROLINA
DENTAL SOCIETY

ADA[®]

1600 Evans Road, Cary, NC 27513
T 919.677.1396/800.662.8754 F 919.677.1397
ncdental.org

RECEIVED 7-28-15
Healthcare Planning & CON

July 27, 2015

Drexdal Pratt, Director
NC Department of Health and Human Services
Division of Health Service Regulation
Certificate of Need Division
2701 Mail Service Center
Raleigh, NC 27699-2701

Dear Mr. Pratt,

On behalf of the North Carolina Dental Society, I am writing to express support for a demonstration project of a single specialty dental ambulatory surgical center to serve the needs of children covered by Medicaid who are experiencing significant barriers to dental care.

In North Carolina, there are over one million children under the age of 21 covered by Medicaid. Many of these children have complex dental problems that must be addressed in an operating room setting under general anesthesia. Wait times for pediatric dental surgery cases often approach three to four months especially in areas where operating room access for pediatric dentists is restricted. As a result, children endure unnecessary pain, their conditions worsen, their risk of complications increases, and when the care is finally rendered, it is at greater expense to the Medicaid program.

A dental-only ambulatory surgical center demonstration project will enable access to comprehensive dental care in a timely, safe, efficient fashion for these children. If the pilot is successful, it could be replicated in HSAs around the state, and has the potential to help hundreds of thousands of children in need.

Sincerely,

Scott W. Cashion D.D.S. M.S.

Scott W. Cashion, DDS, MS
President
North Carolina Dental Society