

DREXEL PRATT
DIVISION DIRECTOR of
DHSR

August 1, 2015

Reference: Cumberland County Dental Ambulatory Center

Dear Mr. Drexel,

As the owner and operator of Highland Pediatric Dental, I would like to lend my intention to support and utilize a dental only ambulatory center to be located in Fayetteville NC. My practice consist of 3 pediatric dentist that currently utilize operating rooms in Highsmith Hospital. We are a large, growing pediatric practice with increasing needs of OR time.

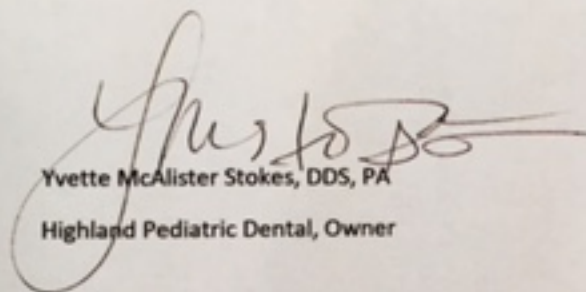
Currently, we are burdened by requirements that restrict who may perform a History and Physical on our patients. We provide care to many patients who reside in Cumberland County, but have primary care providers on our military base or with pediatricians that are not credentialed at either Highsmith or Cape Fear. Our patients are required to have these crucial assessments at a facility that is not their medical home. Because our patients are not established patient's with this facility, the facility has put some restrictions on the number of patients they will see and the times they will perform these H&P's. They have been very helpful, but are obviously focused on providing care to their established patients as they should be.

Once our patients have had a History and Physical. We are restricted on what time during the day an anesthesia evaluation can be done. If we have a patient cancellation the day before our block time, it is difficult to fill in the schedule. Due to no fault of our own, this results in less utilization of block time. Therefore, it has a direct impact on access to care as well as office production.

Currently, regulations create an immediate barrier to obtaining the update on the History and Physical. This is required in-house immediately before surgery and cannot be performed by a dentist. Anesthesia is not willing to perform this service without being compensated. Ironically, there is no way to bill the patients for their own care that the hospital requires. It is unconscionable that neither the hospital nor the anesthesia department could come up with a viable solution to this obvious barrier that did not providers paying for this care or forfeiting OR time. Our practice has to either cover that gap financially or we cannot operate at this facility. We continue to operate under these guidelines because we have no choice if we want our pediatric patients to be treated as we deem appropriate.

A dental only ambulatory center in Cumberland County will be able to provide quality care to the large number of pediatric patients regardless of their use of Medicaid for insurance coverage. It will be able to provide that care without further burdening the dental provider with a financial obligation for our patient's care.

I may be contacted at 1367 Walter Reed Road, Ste 103, Fayetteville, NC 28304 or 910-485-8749. Thank you for your consideration.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Yvette McAlister Stokes', with a large, stylized flourish extending to the right.

Yvette McAlister Stokes, DDS, PA

Highland Pediatric Dental, Owner