

## Wilson Physician Speech

Good afternoon. My name is Dr. Nirav Jasani. I am a practicing nephrologist (kidney doctor) at North Carolina Kidney Care with offices in Wilson and Rocky Mount. I am here to speak in support of the request from Dr. Karn Gupta and Carolina Vascular Care for a special need for one operating room dedicated to vascular access procedures in Nash County for the 2023 Plan.

I take care of patients with End Stage Kidney Disease requiring dialysis. These patients need routine monitoring and frequent interventions to keep their dialysis vascular access functional. Without a functioning vascular access they cannot survive. The vascular access points fall in three categories, but all of them are artificial and frequently develop problems. When this happens, they need immediate evaluation and treatment. This can most efficiently be performed in an outpatient vascular access facility which is organized for these type of patients, will cause them minimum downtime; and most often will enable a patient to resume his or her dialysis schedule without much delay. Unfortunately, due to lack of a dedicated local vascular access center, our patients in Wilson, Nash and nearby communities are left at the mercy of the vascular access center in Raleigh. The patients do not like to go to the hospital for these procedures because they have to first, wait forever and then get admitted for any procedure. This is quite inconvenient and leads to costly medical bills.

We have a lot of these unfortunate dialysis patients in Nash, Wilson and surrounding counties. We have good dialysis treatment facilities but do not have a local outpatient center for maintaining a vascular access.

I am aware of the significant Medicare reimbursement cuts in the last 5 years for vascular access procedures done in an office based setting. This has in turn lead to closure of several vascular centers across the nation which has negatively affected the already suboptimal vascular access care for our dialysis patients. Unfortunately, due to the new reimbursement rules, these vascular access facilities can remain functional only if they operate as an ambulatory surgical center.

The dedicated vascular access centers in Raleigh and Charlotte have already converted to ambulatory surgical centers. Unfortunately, the 2023 State Medical Facilities Plan using the standard methodology does not show any need for OR in Nash or surrounding counties, so a special need for a dedicated operating room for vascular access is the only option. Nash is a good central location. Other specialists are there. The need is big enough. Please support these patients and allocate a special need in the 2023 State Medical Facilities Plan.

Thank you for your kind consideration. I am happy to answer questions.

