

February 24, 2023

North Carolina State Health Coordinating Council
809 Ruggles Drive
Raleigh, NC 27603

Dear North Carolina State Health Coordinating Council:

I am writing to support the petition submitted by Long Term Care Management Services, LLC d/b/a Liberty Healthcare and Rehabilitation Services (“Liberty”) for a Policy to be added to the 2023 SMFP, Policy ESRD-4, which will allow for the development or expansion of a kidney disease treatment center at a skilled nursing facility

I am the Social Work Clinical Case Manager of Atrium Union West Hospital. Atrium Health Union West first started accepting patients on February 23, 2022. Atrium Health Union West is a hospital, emergency department and specialty care center all wrapped into one location – with extra amenities to help restore your body and mind.

One of the biggest discharge planning challenges at Atrium Health Union West involves patients who require acute care and also need dialysis after they come into the hospital. Traditionally, dialysis patients are among the most expensive patients to keep in the hospital, and any prolonged stay is detrimental to their condition. Oftentimes, Union West struggles to find placement at outpatient centers for high acute residents needing dialysis. Many skilled nursing communities cannot accept these higher acuity residents due to the travel demands and cost associated, and the outpatient centers are unable to support patient comorbidities. Therefore, upon discharge, these residents end up being readmitted to the hospital.

Establishing an on-site dialysis model within a SNF would result in patients discharging from the hospital sooner, re-admit to the hospital less, recover more quickly after treatment, and achieve a higher quality of life.

I strongly encourage you to approve the Liberty Policy ESRD-4 petition.

If you have any additional questions, please feel free to contact me.

Sincerely,

Aude’ Kimbrew, LCSWA
Clinical Case Manager

Atrium Health

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