



NC DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES

JOSH STEIN • Governor
DEV DUTTA SANGVAI • Secretary
MARK PAYNE • Director, Division of Health Service Regulation

VIA EMAIL ONLY

December 15, 2025

Denise M. Gunter
denise.gunter@nelsonmullins.com

No Review – Qualified Urban Ambulatory Surgical Facility

Record #: 5025
Date of Request: November 24, 2025
Facility Name: Novant Health South Slope Outpatient Surgery Center
Facility Address: 191 Biltmore Avenue, Asheville NC 28801
Business Name: Novant Health, Inc.
Business #: 1341
Project Description: Develop a qualified urban ambulatory surgical facility
County: Buncombe

Dear Ms. Gunter:

The Healthcare Planning and Certificate of Need Section, Division of Health Service Regulation (Agency) received your correspondence regarding the development of a qualified urban ambulatory surgical facility. Pursuant to NCGS §131E-176(21a), a qualified urban ambulatory surgical facility is an ambulatory surgical facility that meets all of the following criteria:

- a. Is licensed by the Department to operate as an ambulatory surgical facility.
b. Has a single specialty or multispecialty ambulatory surgical program.
c. Is located in a county with a population greater than 125,000 according to the 2020 federal decennial census or any subsequent federal decennial census.

Based on the representation in your request and the CON law in effect on the date of this response to your request, the project as described is not governed by, and therefore, does not currently require a certificate of need. If the CON law is subsequently amended such that the above referenced proposal would require a certificate of need, this determination does not authorize you to proceed to develop the above referenced proposal when the new law becomes effective.

This determination is binding only for the facts represented in your correspondence. If changes are made in the project or in the facts provided in the correspondence referenced above, a new determination as to whether a certificate of need is required would need to be made by this office. As a reminder, it is unlawful to offer or develop a new institutional health service without first obtaining a certificate of need. The Department reserves the right to impose sanctions, including civil penalties and the revocation of a license, upon any entity that

NC DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES • DIVISION OF HEALTH SERVICE REGULATION

LOCATION: 1915 Health Services Way, Raleigh, NC 27607
MAILING ADDRESS: 1915 Health Services Way, 2704 Mail Service Center, Raleigh, NC 27699-2704
www.ncdhhs.gov/dhsr • TEL: 919-855-3873

offers or develops a new institutional health service without first obtaining a certificate of need.

Please do not hesitate to contact this office if you have any questions.

Sincerely,



Ena Lightbourne
Project Analyst



Micheala Mitchell
Chief

cc: Acute and Home Care Licensure and Certification Section, DHSR
Construction Section, DHSR
Healthcare Planning, DHSR

November 24, 2025

Via E-mail

Micheala Mitchell, Chief
Healthcare Planning and Certificate of Need Section
North Carolina Department of Health and Human Services
Division of Health Service Regulation
1915 Health Services Way
Raleigh, North Carolina 27607

RE: Notice of Qualified Urban Ambulatory Surgical Facility in Buncombe County (HSA I)

Dear Ms. Mitchell:

Pursuant to N.C. Gen. Stat. § 131E-176(21a), I am writing to inform the Department of Novant Health, Inc.'s ("Novant Health") intention to establish a Qualified Urban Ambulatory Surgical Facility ("QUASF").

The facility will be called Novant Health South Slope Outpatient Surgery Center, 191 Biltmore Avenue, Asheville, North Carolina 28801 ("NH South Slope"). NH South Slope will have four multispecialty operating rooms. NH South Slope will be located in Buncombe County, which has a population greater than 125,000 according to the 2020 federal decennial census.¹ Once constructed, NH South Slope will be its own licensed ambulatory surgical facility.

Novant Health intends to meet the charity care requirements that are applicable to QUASFs pursuant to N.C. Gen. Stat. § 131E-147.5(a) and (b).

We would appreciate the Agency's prompt written confirmation that NH South Slope qualifies for QUASF status.

Please let me know if you need any further information.

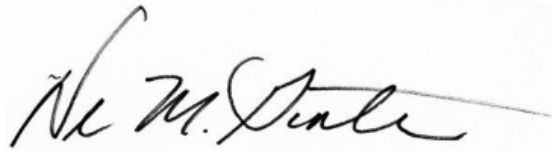
¹ The 2020 federal decennial census reports the population of Buncombe County as 269,452. See <https://www.census.gov/search-results.html?searchType=web&cssp=SERP&q=Buncombe%20County,%20North%20Carolina>.

Micheala Mitchell
November 24, 2025
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Thank you for your time and consideration.

With best personal regards.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Denise M. Gunter", with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Denise M. Gunter

From: [Denise Gunter](#)
To: [Hale, Gloria](#); [Lightbourne, Ena](#); [Stancil, Tiffany C](#)
Subject: [External] QUASF Letters for Buncombe County
Date: Monday, November 24, 2025 2:43:02 PM
Attachments: [QUASF letter for South Slope.pdf](#)
[QUASF letter for South Asheville.pdf](#)

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Good afternoon,

I hope everyone is doing well. Attached are two Qualified Urban Ambulatory Surgical Facility (“QUASF”) letters for Novant Health.

Could you please confirm that you’ve received them?

Thanks and best wishes for a Happy Thanksgiving.



DENISE M. GUNTER **PARTNER**
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