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Medical Facilities
PLANNING SECTION

Triangle Orthopedic Associates, P.A.
PUBLIC HEARING SPEECH
Single-Specialty Ambulatory Surgical Center
Demonstration Project
Presented by Charles Wilson

Good afternoon. My name is Charles Wilson, and I am the Chief Executive Officer of Triangle Orthopedic Associates. I am here today to indicate our support for the Single-specialty Ambulatory Surgery Demonstration Project, proposed by the State Health Coordinating Council for inclusion in the 2010 State Medical Facilities Plan.

Triangle Orthopedic Associates is a comprehensive musculoskeletal center, caring for patients with musculoskeletal and pain problems, through state-of-the-art medical treatment. We currently have 13 locations in the Triangle, with other

sites being considered. Our services include orthopedic surgery, physical medicine & rehabilitation, physical therapy, occupational therapy, a chronic pain program, and other medical and diagnostic services. Our physicians perform thousands of surgical procedures every year; the majority are conducted in an outpatient setting. We are dedicated to providing high quality healthcare to the residents of central and eastern North Carolina.

We appreciate the diligent and thorough efforts of the Single Specialty Ambulatory Surgery Work Group to study this issue. Our physicians are in full support of the determination by the Acute Care Committee, and the full State Health Coordinating Council, to include a need determination for a two-operating room facility in the Triangle area. We are convinced that this project will result in development of an important health service facility in our community. More importantly, we believe that a single-specialty ambulatory surgery facility is consistent with the Basic Principles of the State Medical Facilities Plan. Specifically, the facility will benefit local residents and surgery patients because it will: 1) increase access, 2) ensure quality care, and 3) provide maximum value, in terms of health care benefit per dollar.

Access

A single-specialty ambulatory surgery center can improve geographic access in the Triangle area, and it will increase access to dedicated outpatient surgical

services in a convenient and comfortable facility. Surgical procedures will be more readily available outside of a hospital-setting, and in a facility dedicated to one surgical specialty, thereby greatly increasing convenience and comfort to patients. We also know, from experience, that this new facility will be met with tremendous patient satisfaction. All patients, regardless of their ability to pay, will have the choice to be treated at this facility.

Quality

The demonstration project's focus on single-specialty surgery will enable the physicians and their clinical and support staff to become extremely focused and efficient in providing care. This will have a direct and positive effect on the clinical quality of services provided. The projected high volume of single specialty cases is likely to increase the quality of care delivered each day, based on the well-established linkage between procedure volumes and physician and staff technical proficiencies. As a result, the quality of care will improve, as facility staff maximize their clinical skills and training, through higher utilization and repetition.

Value

The rising cost of healthcare services continues to cause alarm among many constituencies in North Carolina. The operational efficiencies of a single-

specialty ambulatory surgical center will enable providers to offer lower costs. The single-specialty ambulatory surgery setting is one in which healthcare providers can typically operate at much lower costs, and with greater efficiency, than in other types of health care facilities, such as hospitals. Thus, this facility will have the greatest opportunity to achieve cost savings for patients and third party payors.

Triangle Orthopedic Associates, P.A., believes there is a clear need for a single-specialty ambulatory surgery center in the Triangle area; we are convinced that the Demonstration Project will make clear the benefits of this type of facility to local residents, specifically increased access, improved quality, and cost effectiveness. We fully support the Demonstration Project, and we hope you will include it in the Final State Medical Facilities Plan, when it is submitted to the Governor this fall. We welcome this action by the SHCC, but we view it as a first step. We are confident that the demonstration projects will be a success and we encourage the SHCC to expand this opportunity to many more markets throughout North Carolina. Thank you for providing us with the opportunity to discuss this important issue.