

C.O.N. OPPOSITION LETTER

Wake County

Date application received: 6/15/2018

Proposed capital expenditure: \$815,063

Expedited Review Requested: Received

Written comment end date: 7/31/2018

Public hearing required: No

FID: 180318

Facility: Duke Vascular Specialists of Raleigh

Project type: DXCTR

Project description: Develop a new diagnostic center offering vascular services

Review Analyst: Jane Rhoe-Jones

Co-signer: Fatimah Wilson

July 25, 2018

Steven A. Kagan MD

7700 Oakmont Place

Raleigh, North Carolina

Re: Project ID: J-011532-18

Dear Ms. Rhoe-Jones,

I am a Board-Certified Vascular Surgeon who is currently practicing in Wake County; I have been practicing Vascular Surgery in Raleigh for 15 years. I currently have privileges to practice at WakeMed Raleigh and Cary and have previously practiced at Duke Raleigh Hospital and Rex Hospital. I am well acquainted with the need and demand for vascular services in my community and send this letter to voice my concerns regarding the above C.O.N. application by Duke Vascular Specialists of Raleigh to develop a new diagnostic center offering vascular services. For the following reasons I would urge you to oppose the application.

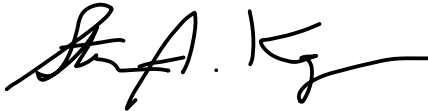
1. **NO UNMET NEED EXISTS IN WAKE COUNTY:** Comprehensive inpatient and outpatient vascular diagnostic services are currently offered in Wake County by (4) medical facilities: WakeMed Raleigh, WakeMed Cary, Duke Raleigh Hospital and Rex Hospital. These (3) separate health systems have been nationally recognized for providing our community with high quality vascular diagnostic services for many years. I would encourage the C.O.N. review committee to determine the utilization rates of the existing vascular services at these facilities as there is significant under-utilization of existing services. Duke Vascular's application for another diagnostic center would increase the number of existing outpatient and inpatient vascular diagnostic centers that are being under-utilized at the expense of these proven providers.
2. **NURSING SHORTAGES:** North Carolina has a critical shortage of nurses. According to a News and Observer article in February 2018 (citing a Georgetown University study), North Carolina is projected to have the second-largest shortage of nurses in the nation – a deficit of nearly 13,000 (see <https://www.newsobserver.com/opinion/op-ed/article202356594.html>). WakeMed, Duke Raleigh and Rex Hospital's ability to continue their present vascular services could be jeopardized as a result of the greater vascular staffing demands that would unnecessarily be placed upon this area's limited nurse staffing pool.

3. **SCOPE OF SERVICE:** The aforementioned health systems' current level of vascular diagnostics offer a full range of vascular diagnostic services to the residents of Wake County. In addition to their diagnostic capabilities, the current facilities also provide outpatient treatment (as well as inpatient treatment and/or hospitalization) for more serious vascular conditions. The proposed outpatient facility would not only be duplicitous but would not be able to provide this full scope of vascular services.

4. **COMPETITION:** Duke Vascular Specialists of Raleigh was formed in April 2018 for the sole purpose of competing with the existing providers of vascular services in Wake County. The Duke PDC (Private Diagnostic Clinic) hired (3) Vascular Surgeons from CVSD (a local practice named Carolina Vascular Surgery and Diagnostics) – this led to litigation, a failed mediation and the dissolution of CVSD. CVSD had provided nationally recognized quality vascular services for Wake County for nearly 40 years. The Duke PDC's actions had a singular directive i.e. to gain an additional share of the vascular services market share for the Duke Health System in Wake County (adding to their existing vascular services presence in Brier Creek).

In summary, there is no “need” for a new vascular diagnostic facility as proposed by the applicant. This application should be denied.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'S.A. Kagan', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Steven A. Kagan MD RVT
Board Certified Vascular Surgeon
Raleigh, North Carolina