

August 7, 2008

State Health Coordinating Council, and
Medical Facilities Planning Section
Division of Health Service Regulation
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DFS Health Planning
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AUG 08 2008

Medical Facilities
PLANNING SECTION

Letter in support of Petition Regarding: Change Methodology for Radiation
Oncology – Linear Accelerators For the 2009 State Medical Facilities Plan

Dear Miss Potter:

I am a practicing **radiation oncologist** in Denver, Colorado and I am a partner at The Urology Center of Colorado. We have fifteen urologist and two radiation oncologists and our goal is to provide comprehensive urologic care. I see and treat many men with prostate cancer. Prostate cancer is a complicated disease in that it is very common yet kills the minority affected. Still, it is second only to lung cancer in cancer mortality in men.

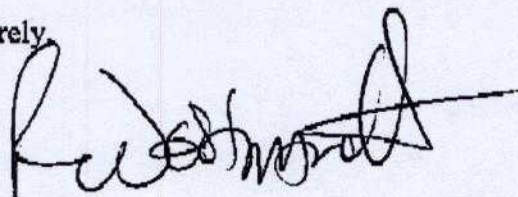
Who to treat and how aggressively is one of the most difficult decisions in therapy. Surgery and more recently radiation therapy have become the standard of care. Unfortunately, most patients see only one specialty or the other. That is not the case here at The Urology Center of Colorado. I collaborate closely with my urology colleagues and this has resulted in superior outcomes, better patient satisfaction, and less morbidity. Last year we treated about 430 men with prostate cancer. The breakdown on the treatments was about 180 having radical prostatectomy, 215 having external beam radiation, and about 35 having low dose rate brachytherapy. We also had many patients opt for watchful surveillance. As you can see, our patients get a balanced presentation of the treatment options and are free to make their own choice.

I am board certified in both urology and radiation oncology. This experience has allowed me to see the benefits of both fields for my patients.

Cary Urology's proposed center presents an interesting and well thought out plan. The input of radiation oncology, hematology oncology and urology along with the support staff and outreach appears well integrated. I strongly support this concept since it has worked well here in the Denver area.

Thank you for considering my comments.

Sincerely,



Reginald D. Westmacott, MD
The Urology Center of Colorado
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