



Centers of Excellence in Hand & Microvascular Spine Surgery Sports Medicine Foot & Ankle Shoulder & Elbow Hip & Knee Replacement Interventional Physiatry & Electrodiagnostic

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July 22, 2009

To Whom It May Concern:

DFS HEALTH PLANNING RECEIVED

JUL 27 2009

Medical Facilities Planning Section

We, the physicians at Blue Ridge Bone & Joint Clinic (BRBJ) in Asheville, NC, appreciate the opportunity of expressing our opinion with regard to the proposed need determination for demonstration projects for single specialty ambulatory surgery centers to you.

We would first like to convey our support for the petitioned "requested changes" to the need determination for the demonstration projects. We have reviewed the North Carolina Orthopaedic Association's prepared requested changes and the accompanying rationale for you to consider in judging whether or not to make these changes. We believe they contain salient additions to the project infrastructure.

We cannot, however, say that the designation of the three demonstration project service areas is encouraging with regard to the particular attention we believe ought to be paid to western North Carolina (WNC). As a matter of fact, we are greatly disheartened that the broader healthcare needs of WNC citizens were overlooked. Therefore, we are actively petitioning the Planning Section for a demonstration project for Buncombe County.

We do understand the Planning Section's concern for existing healthcare entities and the impact additional operating rooms could have. We also do appreciate that the current supply of operating rooms dictates some of the decision making involved in your arriving at this proposal. We are, however, disappointed that BRBJ's orthopedic specialists are once again not being afforded an opportunity to demonstrate:

- Our commitment to providing the highest quality health care to WNC citizenry BRBJ cares for patients from an eighteen county service area.
- Our commitment to cost effective care the proven benefit of the efficiency and effectiveness of single specialty orthopedic ambulatory surgery centers is well documented.
- Our commitment to providing care to all of WNC citizens as demonstrated by BRBJ's
 years of service to the above mentioned area and our involvement in Project Access.

As we all know competition has proven to be a very effective way in which to positively impact quality, cost and access.

We look forward to hearing from you and being engaged in continuing to make a constructive difference in the orthopedic care in our area. Please let us know how we can advance that agenda. You can contact Paul L. Saenger, MD, BRBJ's president at 828-258-8800 or at <a href="mailto:pseudoscale.google.goo

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