

July 29, 2015

Christopher Ullrich, M.D
Chairman, State Health Coordinating Council
Chairman, Technology and Equipment Committee
North Carolina Division of Health Service Regulation
Medical Facilities Planning Branch
2704 Mail Service Center
Raleigh, NC 27699-2704

Re: Rex Healthcare's Petition for an Adjusted Need Determination for Cardiac Catheterization Equipment

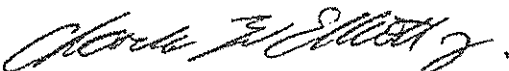
Dear Dr. Ullrich:

As Johnston Health's partner in developing our interventional cardiac catheterization program, I am aware of Rex Healthcare's expertise and experience in cardiology services, and specifically cardiac catheterization services. I fully support Rex Healthcare's petition for an adjusted need determination for one unit of cardiac catheterization equipment in Wake County. Rex's cardiac catheterization labs are over utilized and additional capacity is desperately needed. Our interventional cardiac catheterization program was started in January 2015. Rex serves as our tertiary partner in this service and provides open heart surgery backup, if needed. Our interventionalists are part of North Carolina Heart and Vascular, an affiliate of UNC Healthcare and Rex Healthcare and the same group that includes the interventionalists that practice at Rex.

Since January, Johnston Health has provided 133 interventional procedures. Based on the experience to date, our interventional program has not negatively impacted catheterization volumes at Rex. In fact, I understand that Rex's volumes have increased since our program's inception. Moreover, I do not anticipate that our program will lead to a decline in volume at Rex in the future. Given these facts, I strongly encourage you to approve Rex's special need adjustment petition.

If you have any additional questions, please feel free to contact me.

Sincerely,



Charles W. Elliott, Jr.
President and CEO
Johnston Health