

August 8th, 2017

Christopher Ullrich, M.D.
Chairman
North Carolina State Health Coordinating Council
Health Planning and Certificate of Need Section
North Carolina Division of Facilities Services
809 Ruggles Drive
Raleigh, NC 27603

Re: Adjusted Need Petition for Additional Inpatient Rehabilitation Beds in HSA III

Dear Dr. Ullrich:

As an Occupational Therapist at Novant Health Presbyterian Medical Center, I am writing to express my support and the support of my colleagues for the Petition being filed for an Adjusted Need Determination for additional inpatient rehabilitation beds in HSA III.

Everyday, I work with people who have had strokes, amputations or life changing neurological events. Often they are young, have been very independent or have great potential to improve and overcome the challenges they face to get back to their normal lives. But to do this, they often need a team of therapists to help with daily intervention in an intensive rehabilitation hospital setting. However, many times we see these people sit and wait too long or be denied a rehabilitation bed. When this happens, patients often lose momentum in their progress and/or choose discharge settings that are not ideal. Having worked in a rehabilitation hospital before, I know the high quality of therapy provided and how it improves lives every day. At NHPMC, I treat many patients that could benefit from an inpatient rehab setting that are not allowed to go. Granted, there can be other reasons for this, but often it seems that there simply are not enough beds. It is very hard to see people not have access to the best care they could have, especially when I know first hand how their lives could be changed.

I also support this petition to be able to provide our patients with the best continuum of care possible. Many patients that need to go to rehab are very disappointed and shocked that they can not stay within the Novant system. I think that they have the right to be offered this service as continuation of the hospital that they chose, often, to be in, especially now that we are nationally stroke certified. We should be able to provide comprehensive services from start to finish for someone that we care for with a stroke.

Please convey to the SHCC my enthusiastic support and that of my colleagues for the approval of this Petition.

Sincerely,



Kristan Magas, MS OTR/L
Staff Occupational Therapist NHPMC
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Charlotte, NC 28204
Mecklenburg County