

March 2, 2022

North Carolina State Health Coordinating Council
809 Ruggles Drive
Raleigh, NC 27603

Dear North Carolina State Health Coordinating Council:

I am writing to support the petition submitted by Long Term Care Management Services, LLC d/b/a Liberty Healthcare and Rehabilitation Services ("Liberty") for a Policy to be added to the 2023 SMFP, Policy ESRD-4, which will allow for the development or expansion of a kidney disease treatment center at a skilled nursing facility.

I am the Vice President of Nursing and Case Management for Novant Health. Novant Health is a three-state integrated network of physician clinics, outpatient centers and hospitals that delivers a seamless and convenient healthcare experience to our communities. The Novant Health network consists of more than 2,300 physicians and over 35,000 employees that provide care at nearly 800 locations, including 15 medical centers and hundreds of outpatient facilities and physician clinics. Headquartered in Winston-Salem, North Carolina, Novant Health is committed to making healthcare remarkable for patients and communities, serving more than 6 million patients annually.

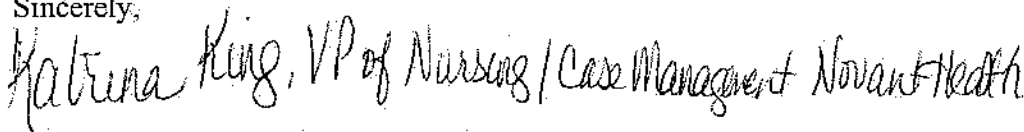
Oftentimes, Novant Health struggles to find placement at outpatient centers for high acute residents needing dialysis. Many skilled nursing communities cannot accept these higher acuity residents due to the travel demands and cost associated, and the outpatient centers are unable to support patient comorbidities. Additionally, it can be difficult to find placement for these patients in the same county at the same time of need. Therefore, patients stay in acute facilities well beyond their medical need, and upon discharge, these residents sometimes readmit to the hospital.

Having the availability to discharge patients with dialysis needs to a nursing home and have one facility address both skilled and dialysis care would be a clinical innovation. Same location care would allow for better collaboration of care, fewer hospital readmissions, and stronger relationships between nursing home operators and Novant Health.

I strongly encourage you to approve the Liberty Policy ESRD-4 petition.

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

Sincerely,



Katrina King, RN, BSN, MBA, NE-BC
Vice President Nursing/Case Management
Novant Health