
July 29, 2022

State Health Coordinating Council
Division of Health Service Regulation
2704 Mail Center Service
Raleigh, NC – 27499

Re: Letter of support for Carolina Vascular Care's petition for need adjustment to the 2023 SMFP


Dear Sir/Madam,

My name is Theresa Burt. I am writing to support the petition submitted by Carolina Vascular Care PLLC for a special need for a single specialty vascular access dedicated ambulatory surgery center.

My kidneys do not work. So, I depend on dialysis to keep me alive. My life involves three half days a week at a dialysis center to get my blood cleaned. It also involves regular maintenance of the surgical shunt in my arm through which I get dialysis. This is the place on my body where the nurses connect me to the dialysis machine and has essentially become my lifeline. Due to the wear and tear the shunt endures, it needs frequent maintenance procedures, about 3-4 times a year, to keep it functional. Sometimes, it stops working and I need it fixed immediately.

Unfortunately, we do not have a local vascular access center in Nash county and I have to travel a long way to Raleigh every time I need such a procedure. This is not always practical due to my ongoing health issues and need to arrange transportation. I frequently have to wait 2-3 days to get scheduled there which leads to missed dialysis treatments. This builds up toxins and water in my body putting my life at risk. I have seen other patients go through the same ordeal when they need their access repaired. The center in Raleigh is far and quite busy to take care of patients from our area. I whole heartedly agree and support having a local vascular access surgery center in the Rocky Mount area. Please address the need of such a critical service in the state medical facilities plan.

Thank you.


Theresa Burt