

August 3, 2022

Ms. Sandra Greene, PhD, Chair
State Health Coordinating Council

Amy Craddock, PhD, Assistant Chief
Healthcare Planning and Certificate of Need Section
Division of Health Service Regulation



DHSR.SMFP.Petitions-Comments@dhhs.nc.gov

RE: Carolina Vascular Care, PLLC Petition for One Operating Room Specialty Ambulatory Surgery Center restricted to vascular access procedures in Nash County.

Dear Dr. Greene and Dr. Craddock,

I am writing to support the petition submitted by Carolina Vascular Care, PLLC for an adjusted need determination in the *2023 State Medical Facilities Plan* for a one operating room specialty ambulatory surgical center restricted to outpatient vascular access procedures in Nash County. I understand that the facility will serve end-stage renal disease patients and ensure continued vascular access care for these patients in an outpatient setting.

Presently, this service does not exist in Nash or adjacent Wilson, Halifax, Edgecombe, or Northampton Counties. Our dialysis patients must travel to the outpatient facilities in the Raleigh area to get routine and emergency maintenance vascular access procedures. The centers in Raleigh are quite far, inconvenient and moreover have become too busy to take care of our dialysis patients. Resultantly, our dialysis patients either do not get timely vascular access care or end up in the hospital. As a local nephrologist, I have knowledge of the growth and aging of our dialysis patients in these rural counties. There is a critical need for a local outpatient vascular access surgery center in on our area to provide cost-effective, convenient, and high quality outpatient vascular access care. The proposed Carolina Vascular Care facility would benefit my patients by insuring on-going access to vascular access care for this vulnerable patient population. The proposed Rocky Mount location would be central and geographically accessible to residents from throughout Nash, Edgecombe, Wilson, Halifax and Northampton counties, and will provide equitable and timely access to ambulatory surgery patients.

Carolina Vascular Care and its physician are experienced providers, with a history of providing high-quality healthcare services, which are also available to medically underserved residents. This project is in the best interest of Nash and surrounding county residents. I strongly support Carolina Vascular Care's petition for a special need for a specialty ambulatory surgery center providing vascular access care in Nash County. Carolina Vascular Care has my support in this important community endeavor and I hope you will approve the special need. I would be happy to answer any questions you may have. Thank you for your time and attention to this critical issue.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Danilo R. Bernado MD". The signature is written in a cursive style.

Danilo R. Bernado, MD
Valley Hypertension Nephrology Associates, PA
937 Gregory Dr, Roanoke Rapids, NC - 27870
Phone: (252) 535-2111