

Received 7-24-15 Healthcare Planning and CON Section Foot & Ankle Hand, Elbow, Shoulder Hip & Knee Spine Sports Medicine

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To Whom It May Concern:

As the president of Blue Ridge Bone and Joint Orthopaedics, I am writing in support of our petition for a single specialty 2 room ambulatory surgery center (ASC) in Buncombe county. Western North Carolina is geographically distinct in its geography and relatively isolated, with Buncombe county is center.

Our goal is to address healthcare's new directive; value and customer experience.

A single specialty ASC drives value by operating at and charging lower prices to all payors and patients while focusing on the best quality care. A physician owned independent center can additionally benefit from modern contracting and risk bearing strategies, like bundled payments. Our market lacks ASC facilities, leaving most outpatient surgery to be performed in hospital settings that are more expensive, less efficient, and better suited for major inpatient care.

Customer experience is a very challenging expectation to meet in the traditional hospital setting. Facility design and operational priority do not favor the outpatient care we provide and our families receive 90% of the time. A single specialty ASC is designed from the ground up to maximize safety, efficiency and the patient's experience.

I see real benefits to patients receiving inpatient care as hospitals are better able to focus on major procedures and the intense level of care best deliver in inpatient operating facilities.

Please consider revising the decision of the SHCC, allow Western North Carolina citizens and patients access to a single specialty demonstration project to maximize modern medical care and value.

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