

Petition to Adjust the State Medical Facilities Plan (SMFP-21)

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Requestors:

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Request for Adjustment: This petition is requesting an adjustment to the need determination within the proposed State Medical Facilities Plan for 2021. Per table 9B of the SMFP-2021, Franklin county has a surplus of four treatment stations. This petition requests the addition of 10 station facility which will be located in Youngsville, North Carolina. Project the new facility would come online in Q1'22.

Rationale:

- Facility will increase treatment capacity within Franklin county thereby providing more access and options for residents. Franklin county has 136 dialysis patients according to 2019 data (SMFP) of which 125 receive in-center treatment. There are two dialysis treatment centers located in Louisburg NC which provide service for 74% of the county's patients. The remaining 26% travel outside of the county for treatment.
- Facility will reduce travel time for patients who seek treatment outside of Franklin county due to lack of capacity. Treatment centers in Wake county currently provide service to 27 patients residing in Franklin county.
- Reduce out-of-pocket cost (gas, mileage on vehicles) for patients forced to travel outside of Franklin county.
- Reduce patient risk of exposure to pandemics such as Covid-19. Additional capacity supports designating specific centers to treat Covid-19 patients exclusively. This provides an additional measure of protection for dialysis patients.

Alternative to Request:

- There are no alternatives for addressing time lost due to patients having to drive outside of the county for treatment.

Alignment with North Carolina SMFP guiding principles:

Access:

- This proposal improves access to treatment for citizens of Franklin county. One of the stated goals of the N.C Department of Health and Human services is to minimize patient travel time to and from facilities. In order to achieve this goal, end-stage renal disease treatment should be available within 30 miles from the patients' homes.

Safety/Quality:

- From the perspective of Covid-19, this petition would reduce the potential for exposure to contagious disease through interacting with people outside of the patient's immediate social bubble.
- The design of the new facility will incorporate key learnings from facilities dealing with Covid-19. Design will facilitate social distancing requirements while allowing for efficient patient movement (into and out of the facility).
- The design will incorporate an isolation unit that will allow sick patients to have separate access/treatment in the facility.

Value:

- This petition will reduce personal expenses for patients resulting from traveling outside of the county to receive treatment.

Impact on Existing Capacity:

According to Table 9A of the 2021 SMFP report (Inventory of Dialysis Stations and Calculation of Utilization), Franklin county does not show a need for additional treatment capacity. However, this data is skewed by patients who seek treatment outside of the county (26% of in-center patients). We believe that the number of patients seeking treatment outside of the county is in part driven by the location of services (Louisburg).

Placing a facility in Youngsville, N.C. will reduce the number of patients driving to facilities in Wake county. This move would free up capacity to serve the growing population in the northern part of the county (Wake Forest). Data from the US Census Bureau indicates that Wake Forest grew 51.4% between the years of 2010 and 2019. This growth is reflected in the decision to allow FMC of Northern Wake to add three additional beds (based on a utilization of 85.71% (2021 SMFP, Table 9A).

The following table illustrates the potential growth rate for in-center patients.

Growth Projections for In Center Patients

Year	Franklin (5%)	Wake (3%)
2019	125	1250
2020	131	1288
2021	137	1326
2022	148	1365

Patient growth rates from Table 9B: ESRD Dialysis Station Need Determinations by Planning Area

Summary:

This petition to add a ten-bed facility in Franklin county will improve access to treatment for residents of Franklin county. Anticipate facility startup would occur 18-24 months after receiving approval from the state. The facility would be sized to support adding treatment stations incrementally (20 max). The Dunliff Treatment Center will be a minority owned and operated treatment facility. Solomon Dunston (MBA) has extensive experience in finance and marketing and Marissa Dunston has extensive experience in patient health care.