



Improving the health of the people in our communities by  
providing quality, compassionate care to everyone, every time

January 26, 2018

Suresh Mukherji, MD  
Chairman, Certificate of Need Commission  
Michigan Department of Community Health  
333 S. Grand Avenue  
Lansing, MI 48933

Dear Chairman Mukherji:

Sparrow Health System (Sparrow) appreciates the time and deliberation put forth by the Department and the CON Commission in developing the Lithotripsy language passed by the Commission in December. Sparrow supports the language for conversion from a mobile to a fixed unit. This change sets forth a foundation for consistently high-volume programs to balance cost, quality, and access.

Sparrow requests that the Commission move to take final action to approve it at the March meeting.

As always, we support the CON process and are grateful for the opportunity to work through this important issue.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "John A. Shaski".

John A. Shaski  
Government Relations Officer

cc: CON Commission Members  
Beth Nagel, MDHHS  
Brenda Rogers, MDHHS

-----Original Message-----

From: Chuck Mueller

Sent: Friday, January 19, 2018 5:36 PM

To: Rodriguez, Tania (DHHS)

Cc: DeClarke, Janet (DHHS)

Subject: Re: CON

Dear Ms. Rodriguez;

I am not able to personally provide public input to the CON on 1/25/18 regarding my experience with shock wave lithotripsy. I hope you can accept this email as my input.

The mission of the CON is Access, Cost and Quality.

Access:

On 9/1/17 I arrived at Munson Medical Hospital in Traverse City, Michigan and was diagnosed with a 6-7 mm right renal stone. With an enlarged prostate the passing of this stone was very challenging. On this day, there were 5 other adults with renal stones. I spent the night at the hospital with IV pain medication.

After consulting with my urologist, I chose to take care of the stone with the extracorporeal shock wave lithotripsy. My doctor pushed the stone back up into my kidney and inserted a right ureteral stent and sent me home. He told me that the earliest that I could be scheduled for the procedure would be on 9/8/17. Northwest Surgery Center in Traverse City has the shock wave machine available to them once every two weeks.

I discovered very soon that having the stent in me was very painful when I urinated which occurred about once every hour all day and night. The pain was intense and I was bleeding a lot. Quickly, I realized that I wanted to get the procedure done as soon as possible.

I called Munson Hospital and asked them where the shock wave unit was located and I would travel to the machine. The person at the hospital tried three numbers and none of them worked. I contact my urologist's office and asked for the location of the machine. They did not know. I then asked if I could get a referral to Grand Rapids Michigan to have the procedure done. This was discouraged for a variety of reasons.

Having to wait a week (could of been two weeks) with intense pain was difficult. It made a huge impact on my daily functioning. I needed to be very close to a bathroom all day.

I would rate "access" as very poor.

Cost:

If the machine was available, I would of had the procedure completed on 9/1/17. Instead, I had to spend a night in the hospital and reschedule for the procedure at a later time. (9/8/17) Because of the wait, the cost's increased significantly mostly because of the overnight stay at the hospital. (Observation unit)

9/1/17 fees:

\$1,418.00 Doctor's fee

\$312.00 ER Doctor's fee

\$250.00 Physician's services

\$19,000.00 Hospital fee

9/8/17 (Surgery Center. Procedure took place. Outpatient) \$1,255.00 Doctor's fee

\$700.00 Anesthesia fee

\$260.00 Radiology fee

\$9,350.00 Surgery Center fee.

9/20/17

\$218.00 doctor's fee (removal of stent)

Rating on cost effectiveness: very poor.

Quality:

Excellent! Happy with the quality of service!

Recommendations:

1. Improve access of shock wave treatment for patients. Facilitate referral to other hospital in a timely fashion if patient does not want to wait. Improving access could lower costs, reduce length of time of discomfort and allow the patient to get back into routine.

(Because of the delay my wife and I had to postpone our trip to Italy to celebrate our 40th wedding anniversary! Bad timing! It could of been worse...the stone could of decided to descend on the airplane headed to Italy.)

2. Look more closely at your data to determine whether a hospital such as Munson Medical Hospital has a need for a machine. How many people are choosing to have laser treatment instead of shock wave because of the wait? How many people are going elsewhere or choosing to go through a painful process and let it pass naturally? How many people are being diagnosed in this area with kidney stones? What data are you looking at in making decisions about the need in the Grand Traverse area?

In summary, under the current plan access and costs did not come close to aligning with your mission statement. Quality did align very nicely with your mission when you look at the end result. The stone passed successfully but I experienced 19 days of significant discomfort.

I would be interested in following up with anyone on the CON committee.

My phone number is: 231-409-6289

Address:

8273 Forest Dr  
Traverse City, MI  
49684

Thank you,

Chuck Mueller