



North Carolina  
Division

August 21, 2023

Llogan R. Walters  
Assistant Attorney General  
North Carolina Department of Justice  
P.O. Box 629  
Raleigh, NC 27602-0629

Dear Assistant Attorney General Walters:

I write in further response to your June 20, 2023 letter regarding oncology services at the Mission Health Cancer Center (“Cancer Center”). First, I want to reiterate: Mission Health System (“Mission”) remains committed to providing quality oncology services to cancer patients in Western North Carolina, and there are no plans to reduce such services at the Cancer Center nor to close the Mission Medical Oncology practice. Rather than restate my prior responses, my July 19, 2023 response to your June 20, 2023 letter is incorporated herein by reference.

As stated in my July 19, 2023 response, much of the data you requested in your June 20, 2023 letter is not information that Mission keeps in the ordinary course of its business. Mission has worked diligently to compile responsive data and certain of that data is provided below or appended to this letter. We are continuing to work to develop responses to your other requests and will provide the data, to the extent it is available, as soon as possible.

First, below, please find available data responsive to your request for “[t]he number of new patients seen by an oncologist employed by the Mission Medical Oncology practice for each month since February 2019.” As you can understand, it is in the independent medical judgment of the treating physician where a patient may be directed for specialty services such as cancer care. Note that, in 2019, the group now known as Messino offered services at Mission under a professional services agreement. Thus, the new patient data begins in 2020 instead of 2019 in order to capture only the portion of the timeframe stated in your request when Mission employed oncology physicians.

| Number of New Patients Seen by Mission-employed Oncologists, 2020-June 2023 |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |
|---|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|
|   | Jan | Feb | Mar | Apr | May | Jun | Jul | Aug | Sep | Oct | Nov | Dec |
| <b>2020</b>   | 31  | 11  | 24  | 8   | 21  | 31  | 33  | 7   | 78  | 91  | 72  | 60  |
| <b>2021</b>   | 59  | 77  | 90  | 70  | 71  | 88  | 59  | 57  | 56  | 59  | 54  | 63  |
| <b>2022</b>   | 58  | 71  | 95  | 93  | 99  | 90  | 97  | 125 | 93  | 116 | 118 | 128 |
| <b>2023</b>   | 126 | 133 | 147 | 61  | 46  | 50  |     |     |     |     |     |     |

To compile this data, Mission queried its Electronic Health Record system and filtered by the following data fields: appointment location, appointment timeframe, and appointment type.

Second, appended to this letter, please find information in response to your request for the names of oncology providers affiliated with Mission since January 31, 2019, including information regarding the date each was credentialed to practice at Mission, and the date those credentials ceased, if any. Mission respectfully requests that your office not disclose this information in the interest of protecting the privacy of these providers.

As stated above, we will provide further responsive information as available. My offer for a meeting with you to discuss any ongoing concerns remains open. We look forward to working with you and your office in the future.

Sincerely yours,



Greg Lowe  
President, North Carolina Division