



STATE OF WASHINGTON  
DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH

April 23, 2012

Jacqueline Tillinger, CEO  
Puget Sound Gastroenterology, PS  
16504 – 9<sup>th</sup> Avenue Southeast, #106  
Mill Creek, Washington 98012

Dear Ms. Tillinger:

Thank you for your March 29, 2012, application for an exemption from Certificate of Need for the establishment of an ambulatory surgery center (ASC) related to Puget Sound Gastroenterology, PS. Below are the facts relied upon by the Certificate of Need Program in reaching its conclusion regarding this project.

**FACTS**

- Puget Sound Gastroenterology, PS is a group practice owned by five physicians.
- The practice currently has five sites, which are listed below.

Address	City	Zip
16504 – 9 <sup>th</sup> Avenue SE, #206	Mill Creek	98012
11800 Northeast 128 <sup>th</sup> Street, #100	Kirkland	98034
11027 Meridian Avenue North, #100	Seattle	98133
501 North 34 <sup>th</sup> Street, #101	Seattle	98103
<b>21600 Highway 99, #260</b>	<b>Edmonds</b>	<b>98020</b>

- Puget Sound Gastroenterology, PS intends to establish an exempt ASC at the Edmonds site identified in bold above.
- The ASC would not be operated under a separate legal entity from the practice.
- The ASC would be known as ‘Edmonds Endoscopy Center.’
- Only the five owning physicians and one employee would have access to the proposed ASC. Information related to the six physicians is listed below.

Name	Credential Status	Practice Status	% of Time Employed by Practice
Cara K. Debley	Active	Partner	100%
Gary N. Dines	Active	Partner	100%
Jinfeng Jeff Guo	Active	Partner	100%
Timothy Eugene Little	Active	Partner	100%
Jason Ian Schneider	Active	Partner	100%
Robert G. Chaffee	Active	Employee	75%

- Procedures to be performed at the ASC include those surgeries typically associated with endoscopy, which includes colonoscopy and endoscopy.
- No management agreement for the ASC is proposed.

### ANALYSIS

- Revised Code of Washington (RCW) 70.38.105(4) identifies the types of projects subject to prior Certificate of Need review and approval. Subsection (a) identifies that the construction, development, or other establishment of a new health care facility is subject to CON review.
- RCW 70.38.025(6) defines "health care facility" as *hospices, hospice care centers, hospitals, psychiatric hospitals, nursing homes, kidney disease treatment centers, ambulatory surgical facilities, and home health agencies, and includes such facilities when owned and operated by a political subdivision or instrumentality of the state and such other facilities as required by federal law and implementing regulations, but does not include any health facility or institution conducted by and for those who rely exclusively upon treatment by prayer or spiritual means in accordance with the creed or tenets of any well-recognized church or religious denomination, or any health facility or institution operated for the exclusive care of members of a convent as defined in RCW 84.36.800 or rectory, monastery, or other institution operated for the care of members of the clergy. In addition, the term does not include any nonprofit hospital: (a) Which is operated exclusively to provide health care services for children; (b) which does not charge fees for such services; and (c) if not contrary to federal law as necessary to the receipt of federal funds by the state.*
- Washington Administrative Code (WAC 246-310-010) defines "ambulatory surgical facility" as *any free-standing entity, including an ambulatory surgery center, that operates primarily for the purpose of performing surgical procedures to treat patients not requiring hospitalization. This term does not include a facility in the offices of private physicians or dentists, whether for individual or group practice, if the privilege of using such facility is not extended to physicians or dentists outside the individual or group practice.*

### CONCLUSION

Based on the above factual information provided by you, the Certificate of Need Program concludes that the establishment of the ASC associated with the group practice known as Puget Sound Gastroenterology, PS does not meet the definition of an ASC under the Certificate of Need provisions of Washington Administrative Code (WAC) 246-310-010. Therefore, the proposed ASC is not subject to Certificate of Need review.

**Please note:** This exemption is not transferable and is based on the facts submitted in the exemption application. Prior Certificate of Need review and approval may be required under the provisions of WAC 246-310-020 if changes occur in your project. Examples of such changes include the following. This list is not intended to be all inclusive.

- 1) should Puget Sound Gastroenterology, PS decide to extend the privilege of using the ASC to physicians not part of the practice; OR

- 2) should Puget Sound Gastroenterology, PS decide to expand the scope of services at the ASC to include services subject to Certificate of Need review under the provisions of WAC 246-310-020; OR
- 3) should Puget Sound Gastroenterology, PS decide to organize the ASC as a separate legal entity from the group practice; OR
- 4) should Puget Sound Gastroenterology, PS decide to operate the ASC under a management agreement; OR
- 5) should any entity other than Puget Sound Gastroenterology, PS hold the Medicare certification; OR
- 6) should the ASC cease operations or relinquish its Medicare certification and then choose to resume services as an ASC; OR
- 7) should the group practice or ASC be purchased or leased.

This exemption approval does not constitute approval under any other local, federal, or state statute, or implementing rules and regulations. Examples where additional approval may be necessary include, but are not limited to, construction plan approval through the Construction Review Section of the Department of Health, facility licensing/certification through the Department of Social and Health Services or Department of Health, and other federal or local jurisdiction permits.

This decision may be appealed. The two appeal options are listed below.

Appeal Option 1:

You or any interested or affected person may request a public hearing to reconsider this decision. The request must state the specific reasons for reconsideration in accordance with Washington Administrative Code 246-310-560. A reconsideration request must be received within 28 calendar days from the date of the decision at one of the following addresses:

<u>Mailing Address:</u>	<u>Other Than By Mail</u>
Department of Health	Department of Health
Certificate of Need Program	Certificate of Need Program
Mail Stop 47852	111 Israel Road SE
Olympia, WA 98504-7852	Tumwater, WA 98501

Appeal Option 2:

You or any affected person with standing may request an adjudicative proceeding to contest this decision within 28 calendar days from the date of this letter. The notice of appeal must be filed according to the provisions of Revised Code of Washington 34.05 and Washington Administrative Code 246-310-610. A request for an adjudicative proceeding must be received within the 28 days at one of the following addresses:

Jacqueline Tillinger, CEO  
Puget Sound Gastroenterology, PS  
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Mailing Address:  
Adjudicative Service Unit  
Mail Stop 47879  
Olympia, WA 98504-7879

Other Than By Mail  
Adjudicative Clerk Office  
310 Israel Road SE, Building 6  
Tumwater, WA 98501

Please call me at (360) 236-2957 if you have any further questions regarding the establishment of the exempt ASC.

Sincerely,



Karen Nidermayer, Analyst  
Certificate of Need Program  
Office of Certification and Technical Support

cc: Department of Health, Office of Customer Service  
Department of Health, Construction Review Services