

August 26, 2009

Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services  
Department of Health and Human Services  
Attention: CMS-1413-P  
Mail Stop C4-26-05  
7500 Security Boulevard  
Baltimore, MD 21244-1850

To Whom It May Concern:

My name is Alex Martinez, and I live in Atascosa, Texas. I am a 71 year-old prostate cancer survivor. My doctor at Urology San Antonio recently told me that your agency is considering making changes to rules that could have a serious impact on Urology San Antonio's ability to keep providing cancer care like it provided me.

As a patient at Urology San Antonio, I was extremely happy with the treatment I received. I was able to access numerous physicians of different specialties who answered my questions on a number of issues. Not only did they address my personal concerns, but each person I spoke with worked with me to determine what options were best for me. They took their time and helped me to the full extent. They explained in great detail what treatment I would be receiving and how it would affect me. They were personal and extremely gentle. They made sure I was peaceful and not suffering. As a patient, the treatment I received was better than I could have hoped for.

I want you to know that I understand what quality, personal treatment is and how important it is to a patient and their family. For 30 years, I served as a Licensed Vocational Nurse at the University of Texas Hospital in San Antonio. While I was there, I worked with a number of different patients in a number of different areas. No matter who the patient was or what that patient was going through, I always treated them as though they were family. I did this because it was how my mother raised me and more importantly because it was the right thing to do. At Urology San Antonio, every physician cared for me in this way.

When I was first diagnosed with cancer, I was extremely afraid. I thought, "I am going to die in a very painful way." I felt scared and alone. Because I was a nurse, I immediately began researching possible treatment. I spent a tremendous amount of time going through medical books, consulting colleagues at my hospital, and speaking with my family. I visited several specialties in the San Antonio area.

Before deciding on a facility, I visited a radiation oncologist in San Antonio. While there, I was very unhappy with the advice I received. I was presented with limited choice. Because that practice focused in only one area of possible treatment, I was told what treatment I would be receiving and how I needed to adapt. I was never asked if this was my preference, nor was I advised of other alternatives. Because I had done my

research and had previously been a patient for other reasons at Urology San Antonio, I was aware of alternatives.

From the very beginning stages of my diagnosis, nurses and physicians at Urology San Antonio were extremely receptive to me. Because of their comprehensive approach, I was never advised to use one treatment or another. Instead, they listened to me. They understood my concerns and helped me create the best plan to improve my life and alleviate my fears. They made it easy for me to see different specialists within their practice. Because of this, I was able to receive high quality, affordable care only 30 minutes from my home.

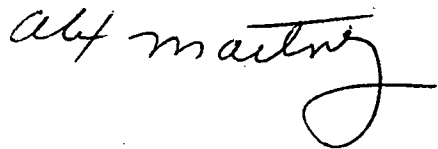
Without Urology San Antonio, I would not be alive today. I firmly believe that their approach was crucial to my well-being and my future. More importantly, their care enabled me to continue my life after cancer. I feel like I was the same person as I was before. Today, I am able to run three miles everyday as I did before, Texas weather permitting of course. My brother and I are also able to still live in the same country home that our mother left us when she passed away in 1997. I was not forced to sell my home to help pay for increased medical expenses. I am able to enjoy the rolling hills and fresh air outside of the sirens and noise of San Antonio.

If I had to make my choice again, I would not change it. I would recommend San Antonio Urology to my family, friends, and anyone in need. I felt at home at their facility and would not trade the care I received for other options. Staff cared for me, understood the pain I was going through, and made treatment as painless as possible.

Before reducing their ability, and other's across the United States, to offer quality cancer care, I would ask CMS to please think of me, a prostate cancer survivor, because of the care I received at San Antonio Urology. Please ensure me that I will have the continued ability to access care wherever I may choose.

Sincerely yours,

Alex Martinez

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Alex Martinez". The signature is written in black ink and is positioned below the typed name.