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## Technology and Equipment Committee

Recommendations to the North Carolina State Health Coordinating Council  
October 4, 2017

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On September 13, 2017, the Technology and Equipment Committee met to consider petitions and comments in response to Chapter 9 of the *North Carolina Proposed 2018 State Medical Facilities Plan (SMFP)*.

The Committee makes the following recommendations for consideration by the North Carolina State Health Coordinating Council in preparation for the Technology and Equipment chapter of the *2018 SMFP*. For all sections of Chapter 9, inventories have been updated to reflect any changes, and tables include placeholders where applicable. All inventories and need determinations are subject to change.

### **Magnetic Resonance Imaging (MRI) Section**

The Committee received one petition for this section.

#### ***Petition: Pasquotank/Camden/Currituck/Perquimans – Sentara Albemarle Medical Center***

- **Request:** Sentara Albemarle Medical Center requested an adjusted need determination to remove the need for one fixed MRI scanner in the Pasquotank/Camden/Currituck/Perquimans Service Area.
- **Committee Recommendation:** The Committee discussed the Petition and Agency Report, which recommended approval of the Petition request. The need threshold was surpassed by one weighted scan. The Committee concurred with the Agency's Report that the growth of MRI procedures and migration of patients does not allow an existing or new provider to meet the CON standards for a qualified applicant in the third operating year of a proposed scanner. Furthermore, in 2007 Sentara Medical Center obtained a CON for a second scanner, but ultimately relinquished it. The Committee

recommends to the SHCC that the Petition request be approved and the need for one MRI scanner in the Pasquotank/Camden/Currituck/Perquimans service area be removed.

### ***Data Updates***

The Proposed 2018 SMFP shows need determinations for a fixed MRI machine in the Pasquotank/Camden/Currituck/ Perquimans (Pasquotank) service area and in Union County. Since the proposed plan was published, staff have updated data in Table 9P for Brunswick, Carteret, Dare, and Pasquotank service areas. None of the updated data changed the need determinations.

### **Cardiac Catheterization Equipment Section**

One petition was received for this section.

#### ***Petition: Caldwell County – Caldwell Memorial Hospital***

- **Request:** Caldwell Memorial Hospital requested an adjusted need determination for a fixed cardiac catheterization machine in Caldwell County. This petition received four letters of support.
- **Committee Recommendation:** The Committee discussed the Petition and Agency Report, which recommended approval of the request. Caldwell Memorial Hospital currently has installed a grandfathered cardiac catheterization machine that is owned and operated by DLP Cardiac Partners. In 2007, the Director of the Division approved a request for a declaratory ruling that the equipment be regarded as a fixed machine in the SMFP. In the Proposed 2018 SMFP, this machine has performed over 684 weighted procedures. The Agency agrees this machine is not a true fixed unit. Methodology 2 states that if a mobile machine exceeds 240 procedures and there is no other fixed cardiac machine in the service area, a need is triggered for one unit of shared fixed cardiac catheterization equipment. Based on the data presented in the Agency Report, the Committee recommends to the SHCC that the need determination be adjusted for one additional unit of shared fixed cardiac catheterization equipment in Caldwell County.

## ***Data Updates***

The *Proposed 2018 SMFP* showed one need determination for fixed cardiac catheterization equipment in the Buncombe/Graham/Madison/Yancey Service Area.

Table 9X includes corrected the data for Caldwell County, now showing 684 weighted procedures rather than 600. No need determinations were changed as a result. The only need determination for this section is 1 unit of fixed cardiac catheterization equipment in the Buncombe/Graham/Madison/Yancey service area.

## **Positron Emission Tomography (PET) Scanners Section**

Since the Proposed 2018 SMFP, there have been no changes in need projections for positron emission tomography. The Proposed 2018 SMFP showed a need determination for one additional mobile PET scanner statewide. The Committee received no petitions and two comments regarding the positron emission tomography section of the Proposed 2018 SMFP.

## **Lithotripsy Section**

Since the Proposed 2018 SMFP, there have been no changes in need projections for lithotripsy. There was no need indicated anywhere in the state for additional lithotripsy. The Committee received no petitions and no comments over the summer regarding the lithotripsy section of the Proposed 2018 SMFP.

## **Linear Accelerator Section**

Since the Proposed 2018 SMFP, there have been no changes in need projections for linear accelerators. There was no need indicated anywhere in the state for additional linear accelerators. The Committee received no petitions and no comments over the summer regarding the linear accelerator section of the Proposed 2018 SMFP.

### **Gamma Knife Section**

Since the Proposed 2018 SMFP, there have been no changes in the need projections for gamma knife. There was no need for gamma knives anywhere in the state. The Committee received no petitions or comments over the summer regarding the gamma knife section of the Proposed 2018 SMFP.

### **Recommendations Related to Entire Chapter**

The Committee recommends to the State Health Coordinating Council approval of Chapter 9: Technology and Equipment, with the understanding that staff is authorized to continue making necessary updates to the narratives, tables and need determinations as indicated.