
Technology and Equipment Committee
June 10, 2020
Recommendations to the N. C. State Health Coordinating Council

The Technology and Equipment Committee has met twice since the last full SHCC meeting. The committee met on April 15 and May 20.

The topics reviewed and discussed included:

- Petitions received from Carolina Neurosurgery and Spine Associates and Raleigh Radiology regarding MRI scanners.
- Current policies, assumptions, and methodologies for Cardiac Catheterization Equipment, Gamma Knife, Linear Accelerators, Lithotripsy, Magnetic Resonance Imaging (MRI) Scanners and Positron Emission Tomography (PET) Scanners for the Proposed 2021 State Medical Facilities Plan; and
- Preliminary drafts of need projections generated by the standard methodologies

The following is an overview of the Committee's recommendations for consideration by the SHCC in preparation for Chapter 17 of the Proposed 2021 Plan. This report's organization is by equipment and aligns with the organization of the chapter.

Cardiac Catheterization

The Committee received no petitions and no comments regarding cardiac catheterization equipment. Application of the methodology based on data and information currently available resulted in five need determinations for fixed cardiac catheterization units.

Buncombe/Graham/Madison/Yancey County Service Area has a need determination for two units. Cabarrus, Haywood and New Hanover Counties each have a need determination for one unit of fixed cardiac catheterization equipment. There is no need determination for shared fixed cardiac catheterization equipment. Staff is looking into some of these need determinations, so they may change before the Proposed Plan is posted.

Gamma Knife

The Committee received no petitions and no comments regarding gamma knife equipment. The SMFP has no need determination methodology for Gamma Knives. Therefore, there are no draft need determinations.

Linear Accelerator

The Committee received no petitions and no comments regarding linear accelerators. Application of the methodology based on updated data and information currently available projects one need determination for linear accelerator equipment in Service Area 19. Updated data received after

the last Technology and Equipment meeting showed that Service Area 7 no longer has a need determination for a linear accelerator.

Lithotripsy

The Committee received no petitions and no comments regarding lithotripsy equipment. Application of the methodology based on data and information currently available results in no need determinations for lithotripsy equipment.

Magnetic Resonance Imaging (MRI)

The Committee received two petitions and no comments regarding magnetic resonance imaging equipment.

Petitions: Carolina Neurosurgery & Spine Associates (CNSA) submitted a petition to add a new policy allowing the substitution of a vender-owned mobile MRI scanner with a provider-owned mobile MRI scanner. The Agency received 2 comments in opposition for the CNSA petition. Raleigh Radiology submitted a petition to amend Policy TE-3 to include a provision that allows freestanding non-hospital facilities that currently contract for MRI services to obtain a CON for a fixed MRI scanner. The Agency received 2 comments in opposition and 9 letters of support for the Raleigh Radiology petition.

Because these petitions were closely related, the Agency prepared one set of recommendations for both petitions. The Agency recommended denial of both Petitions. Instead, they recommended approval of Policy TE-4, which creates an opportunity for current providers that contract with a non-related entity for fixed or mobile MRI services to obtain provider-owned MRI equipment without the requirement for a need determination. The Committee supported the Agency's recommendations.

Application of the methodology based on data and information currently available results in seven need determinations for fixed MRI scanners: there is one proposed need determination each in New Hanover, Orange, Stanly, Wake and Mecklenburg counties, as well as one each in the multi-county service areas of Buncombe/Graham/Madison/Yancey and Pasquotank/Camden/Currituck/Perquimans Counties.

Positron Emission Tomography

The Committee received no petitions and no comments regarding PET equipment. Application of the methodology based on data and information currently available results in three proposed need determinations for fixed PET scanners, one each in HSA I, HSA V and HSA VI. Staff is looking into some of these need determinations, so they may change before the Proposed Plan is posted.

Recommendation for Chapter 17: Technology & Equipment for the Proposed 2021 SMFP:

The Committee recommends that the current assumptions, methodologies and draft tables for cardiac catheterization, gamma knife, linear accelerator, lithotripsy, MRI Scanners, and PET scanners be accepted for the Proposed 2021 Plan.

Also, the Committee recommends that the SHCC authorize the staff to update all narratives, tables and need determinations for the Proposed 2021 Plan as new and corrected data are received.