
Technology and Equipment Committee
June 2, 2021
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 7 and May 5.

The topics reviewed and discussed included:

- Update to Policy TE-3: Plan Exemption for Fixed Magnetic Resonance Imaging Scanners
- Petitions received from Novant Health and MedQuest regarding existing and approved specialized breast 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 2022 State Medical Facilities Plan (SMFP); 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 2022 Plan. This report’s organization is by equipment and aligns with the organization of the chapter.

Policy TE-3

Policy TE-3 is an exemption for those seeking to acquire a fixed MRI scanner in a hospital. The Agency is proposing to add the clause, “but it may operate the fixed MRI scanner as part of the hospital, a diagnostic center, or an independent diagnostic testing facility (IDTF).” This will help clarify where the MRI can be located in association with the hospital. This clarification is not a change to the policy nor the current procedures in how the policy is applied.

Cardiac Catheterization Equipment

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 no need determination for fixed cardiac catheterization units. There is also no need determination for shared fixed cardiac catheterization equipment.

Gamma Knives

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 Accelerators

The Committee received no petitions and no comments regarding linear accelerators. Application of the methodology based on updated data and information currently available resulted in no need determination for linear accelerators.

Lithotriptors

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 Scanners

The Committee received one petition with comments regarding magnetic resonance imaging equipment.

Petitions: Novant Health and MedQuest Associates petitioned that the two dedicated breast MRI scanners now shown in Table 17E-2 of the 2021 SMFP be included in the fixed MRI inventory (Table 17E-1) of the 2022 SMFP. The Agency received one comment in opposition and two comments in support of the petition, one of which was withdrawn. Before the May T&E meeting, Novant Health withdrew the Spring Petition . They plan to resubmit it as a Summer Petition.

Application of the methodology based on data and information currently available results in four need determinations for fixed MRI scanners: there is one proposed need determination each in Mecklenburg and Stanly counties, as well as one each in the multi-county service areas of Pasquotank/Camden/Currituck/Perquimans counties and Pitt/Greene/Hyde/Tyrell counties.

Positron Emission Tomography Scanners

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

Recommendation for Chapter 17: Technology & Equipment for the Proposed 2022 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 2022 Plan.

Also, the Committee recommends that the SHCC authorize the staff to update all narratives, tables and need determinations for the Proposed 2022 Plan as new and corrected data are received.