



Wake Forest University Baptist

DFS Health Planning
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Medical Facilities
PLANNING SECTION

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Dr. Dan A. Myers, Chairman
State Health Coordinating Council
Division of Health Service Regulation
2714 Mail Service Center
Raleigh, NC 27699-214

RE: Comments Regarding Trauma/Burn Center Operation Room Exclusion

Dear Dr. Myers,

I would like to take this opportunity on behalf of Wake Forest University Baptist Medical Center to continue thank the SHCC and State Medical Facilities Planners for all their time and effort in continuing to advance the OR Workgroup recommendation adopted in 2007. It is important for all hospitals to continue to work with the State to provide the most accurate and credible data in all areas to ensure that appropriate planning takes place and that the healthcare needs of the citizens of North Carolina are met. I am respectfully submitting comments regarding the exclusion of one OR for each Level I, II, and III Trauma Center and one additional operating room for each designated Burn Intensive Care Unit.

NCBH believes that the State Medical Facilities Plan should continue to exclude one OR for each designated Trauma Center and one OR for each designated Burn Intensive Care Unit. It is important the State to understand that if they choose to segment out and report trauma and burn cases then the current definition of capacity and resource hours would not be applicable. Trauma and burn surgeries are more complex and can often take several hours rather than the typical 3 hours designated for inpatient OR cases. In addition case times vary from a Level I to a Level III trauma facility. It would be NCBH's recommendation for the State Medical Facilities Plan to come up with a different formula to account for these cases when taking into account an OR need in a Service Area with an excluded trauma and/or burn OR.

In conclusion, Wake Forest University Baptist Medical Center welcomes the prospect of continuing to revise the current operating room need methodology. We want the data to accurately reflect true utilization and resources for all North Carolina designated Trauma Centers and Burn Intensive Care Units. Thank you for the opportunity to voice my concerns through these comments.

Sincerely,

Michael L. Freeman
Vice President, Medical Center Strategic Planning
Wake Forest University Baptist Medical Center

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