

Comments on Petition of Neo Pet, llc
Regarding the Petition for Adjustment to Need Determinations for Mobile PET Scanner
Proposed 2011 North Carolina State Medical Facilities Plan
August 16, 2010

Haywood Regional Medical Center respectfully submits this statement requesting an adjustment to the mobile Position Emission Tomography (PET) scanner need determination contained in the Proposed 2011 State Medical Facilities Plan.

The plan currently being considered by the Medical Facilities Planning Section requesting an adjustment to the need determinations for mobile pet scanners states that there is no need for an additional mobile scanner anywhere in the state. Haywood Regional Medical Center is requesting a need determination for at least one additional mobile PET scanner for the west mobile PET scanner Health Services Areas 1, 2 and 3.

Western North Carolina is a rural area, and hospitals and patients in the western part of the state are underserved and lack access to PET services. There is currently only one mobile PET scanner for 18 hospitals in Western North Carolina and it is operating well above capacity. Some of those hospitals receive PET services on a schedule of only half-a-day every other weekend, while others receive one week day of service every other week or less.

The radiology departments at Haywood Regional Medical Center have been using state-of-the-art technology like multi-detector CT and high-field MRI scanners. These devices offer advanced capabilities, with highly detailed anatomical images of the body, but they don't precisely detect if a tumor is malignant or if there are active spots that have spread to other regions of the body. This is where PET technology is beneficial.

The limited availability of PET services makes it difficult for Haywood Regional Medical Center to build a successful PET program. Patients unable to wait for the existing mobile PET scanner to return to the hospital on its scheduled day must go elsewhere and are subjected to longer travel distances,. That can present even more of a hardship if a patient requires multiple scans.

We strongly encourage the State Medical Facilities Planning Section to consider allowing for one additional mobile PET scanner for the West Mobile PET Scanner Planning Region. Haywood County has a high incidence rate of breast cancer. The additional mobile PET scanner would eliminate the need for painful invasive tissue sampling and to closely monitor for the reoccurrence of cancer.

PET scanning would help reduce medical costs, as it can bypass other invasive tests. We owe it to our patients to do everything possible to convince the Medical Facilities Planning Section to reconsider this needs assessment. Please consider including one additional PET CON for our region.

Mike Poore, CEO/President

MedWest Health System



DFS Health Planning
RECEIVED

AUG 16 2010

Medical Facilities
PLANNING SECTION