

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

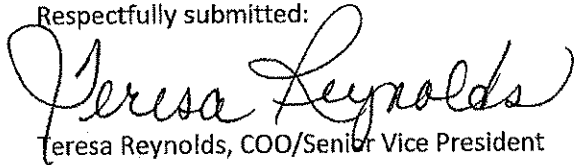
Harris Regional Hospital is requesting an adjustment to the mobile Position Emission Tomography (PET) scanner need determination contained in the Proposed 2011 State Medical Facilities Plan.

The plan currently being considered by the Medical Facilities Planning Section states that there is no need for an additional mobile scanner anywhere in the state. Harris Regional Hospital is requesting at least one additional mobile PET scanner for the west mobile PET scanner Health Services Areas 1, 2 and 3.

Jackson County is a rural area, and patients in Jackson County are underserved and often lack access to PET services. There is currently only one mobile PET scanner for 18 hospitals in Western North Carolina and it is operating above capacity. Harris Regional receives mobile PET services only half-a-day every other weekend. That can create a hardship for patients who are ill and are forced to travel long distances along curvy mountain roads, particularly during inclement weather. The existing mobile PET scanner logged 2,821 procedures in fiscal year 2009. .

We strongly encourage the State Medical Facilities Planning Section to consider allowing for one additional PET CON for the West Mobile PET Scanner Planning Region.

Respectfully submitted:

  
Teresa Reynolds, COO/Senior Vice President

**MedWest Health System**  
Harris Regional Hospital  
Haywood Regional Medical Center  
Swain County Hospital

DFS Health Planning  
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Medical Facilities  
PLANNING SECTION