



August 16, 2012

Thomas J. Pulliam, MD  
Interim Chairman, State Health Coordinating Council  
c/o Dept. of Health Service Regulation  
Medical Facilities Planning Section  
2714 Mail Services Center  
Raleigh, NC 27699-2714

Dear Dr. Pulliam:

I am writing to you today to express my support for Johnston Health's petition regarding cardiac catheterization. Just as Johnston Health explained in their petition, Randolph Hospital also purchased cardiac catheterization equipment after 1993, and therefore is not allowed to perform therapeutic cardiac catheterization because of the lack of an open heart surgery program. Forty-five miles away from Randolph Hospital, Alamance Regional Medical Center safely delivers this life-saving service without onsite open heart surgery. Therefore, the rule requiring on-site open heart surgery for interventional cardiac catheterization programs that were not "grandfathered" creates a health care disparity among different counties across the state.

The inability to provide intervention has virtually eliminated our diagnostic catheterization program as our primary care physicians and cardiologists want their patients to be able to have an intervention should the need arise. Much like the citizens of Johnston County, Randolph County citizens do not have convenient access to these cardiology procedures that have become standard of care.

In addition, North Carolina is one of the few states that have not instituted any regulatory changes to expand the provision of PCI (Percutaneous Coronary Intervention) to hospitals without open heart surgery despite guidelines from the American College of Cardiology that support the safety of these procedures in community hospitals. The provision of PCI services without cardiac surgery on site is already a reality for over one-third of the PCI providers in North Carolina. Johnston Health's proposed petition would ensure that access to this life-saving service is equitable across the state. Randolph Hospital supports this petition and looks forward to a time when therapeutic catheterization is more readily available to all citizens of North Carolina.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Steven E. Eblin". The signature is written in a cursive style with a prominent initial 'S'.

Steven E. Eblin, Chief Executive Officer