



CAPE FEAR VALLEY
BLADEN HEALTHCARE

March 14, 2016

Ms. Martha Frisone, Assistant Chief
Health Planning and Certificate of Need Section
North Carolina Division of Facilities Services
701 Barbour Dr.
Raleigh, NC 27603



BLADEN COUNTY HOSPITAL

Re: CFVHS Petition for MRI Policy for Community Hospitals

BLADEN PT/OT

Dear Ms. Frisone:

BLADEN KID'S CARE

Cape Fear Valley – Bladen Healthcare supports the proposed Policy TE-3 Fixed MRI Scanners in Community Hospitals. MRI services are available on a limited basis at Cape Fear Valley – Bladen Healthcare. As a result, residents of our community must travel to urban markets at larger hospitals for MRI services. The proposed policy would allow our hospital to seek a fixed MRI if and when our hospital, working with our community and our market, determines that acquiring fixed equipment will be financially beneficial to the hospital.

BLADEN MEDICAL ASSOCIATES

WOMEN'S HEALTH SERVICES

DRAFT Policy TE-3: Fixed MRI Scanners in Community Hospitals

BLADEN SPEECH PATHOLOGY

A certificate of need may be issued to a hospital licensed under GS 131E, Article 5, without regard to the MRI need shown in Chapter 9: Magnetic Resonance Imaging, provided that the certificate of need application demonstrates the following:

BLADEN SURGICAL SPECIALISTS

BLADEN EXPRESSCARE

BLADEN WOMEN'S DIAGNOSTIC CENTER

1. The fixed MRI will be located in a community hospital that currently does not have a fixed MRI scanner.
2. The hospital documents that fixed MRI services are necessary to meet the needs of patients in the hospital service area.
3. The hospital documents that the project will meet all other CON requirements.
4. If the hospital currently utilizes mobile MRI services, the hospital documents that the mobile MRI services will be terminated once the new fixed MRI scanner becomes operational.
5. If the hospital currently utilizes mobile MRI services, the hospital demonstrates that acquisition of a fixed MRI scanner by the hospital will reduce the hospital's costs of providing MRI services which will be passed on to patients and third party payors in the form of lower charges.

As a non-profit, community-owned health system we invest income generated by our hospital back into the facility and the community we serve. We are committed to patients and their families – not to stakeholders. In keeping with its non-profit mission, physicians and employees at Cape Fear Valley – Bladen Healthcare provide medical services, regardless of one's ability to pay.

Please convey to the SHCC our enthusiastic support of the CFVHS Policy TE-3.

Sincerely,

Kathleen Ecker DO.

CFVH-Bladen Healthcare