

# PETITION

**Petition to the State Health Coordinating Council  
Adjustment to Need Determination for Cardiac Catheterization for New Hanover County  
2023 State Medical Facilities Plan**

**1. Name, address, email address and phone number of the petitioner.**

**Date:** July 27, 2022  
**Name:** Novant Health New Hanover Regional Medical Center  
**Address:** 2131 South 17<sup>th</sup> Street  
Wilmington, NC 28401  
**County:** New Hanover  
  
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**2. A statement of the requested adjustment, citing the provision of need determination within the Proposed SMFP for which the adjustment is proposed.**

Novant Health New Hanover Regional Medical Center (“NH New Hanover”) requests that the *2023 State Medical Facilities Plan (“SMFP”)* identify a need determination for zero (0) cardiac catheterization equipment in New Hanover County, as reflected in Table 17A-4.

As explained in this adjustment to need determination petition and the complementary adjustment to need determination petition Novant Health has submitted to add one unit of shared fixed cardiac catheterization equipment in Brunswick County, there is a need for additional cardiac catheterization services in southeastern North Carolina. The need, however, exists in Brunswick County, not New Hanover County. New Hanover County currently has five units of fixed cardiac catheterization equipment, with another unit approved pursuant to the need determination in the *2021 SMFP*. Brunswick County does not have any fixed cardiac catheterization equipment. There is a clear imbalance that should be addressed, so that Brunswick County residents are not required to continue travelling out of county, and in some cases, out of state, to receive this life-saving treatment.

**3. Reasons for the proposed adjustment, including:**

Novant Health Brunswick Medical Center (“NH Brunswick”) is submitting an adjustment to need determination petition for shared cardiac catheterization equipment in Brunswick County in the *2023 SMFP*. As explained this adjustment to need determination petition and the NH Brunswick adjustment to need determination petition, the need for an additional unit of fixed cardiac catheterization equipment exists in Brunswick County; New Hanover County has sufficient cardiac catheterization resources for the foreseeable future.

As stated in the aforementioned adjustment to need determination petition, Brunswick County has two acute care hospitals, NH Brunswick and J. Arthur Doshier Memorial Hospital, neither of these hospitals operate fixed cardiac catheterization equipment. DLP Cardiac Partners has operated mobile cardiac catheterization equipment on a limited bases (approximately 1 hour per week) over the past twelve years at NH Brunswick as the following table indicates:

## DLP Cardiac Partners Mobile Cardiac Catheterization Procedures

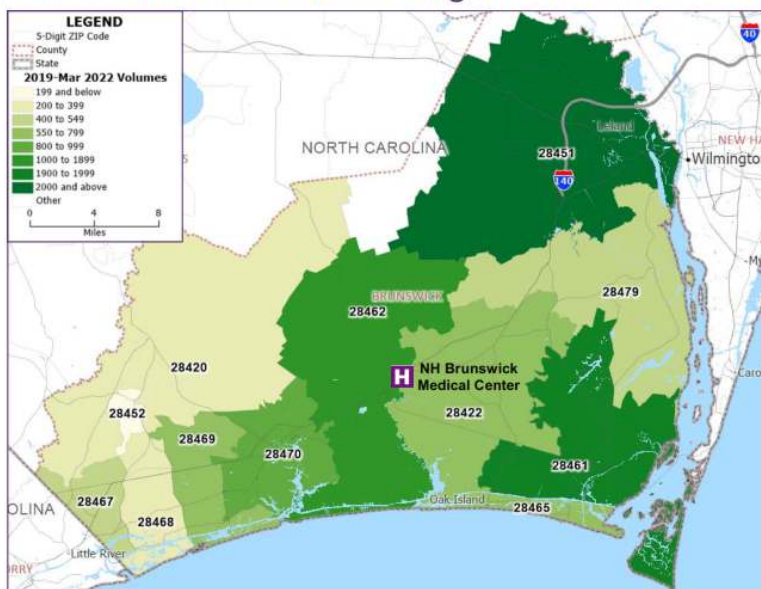
	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021
<b>Procedures</b>	76	72	40	46	10	0	0	0	0	8	32	35

Source: 2012 SMFP through Proposed 2023 SMFP.

The primary concern with mobile cardiac catheterization equipment is that based on NH New Hanover experience, nearly 50 percent of diagnostic cardiac catheterizations require a cardiac intervention and mobile cardiac catheterization equipment is not the preferred location to perform the cardiac intervention as the cardiac intervention is immediately performed after diagnosis and transferring delays treatment, which could be life threatening. Contracting for mobile cardiac catheterization services is also extremely expensive.

As such, essentially all Brunswick County cardiac catheterization patients are referred to and receive their cardiac catheterization procedure at Novant Health New Hanover Regional Medical Center (“NH New Hanover”). As the following graphic illustrates, patients from the eastern regions of Brunswick County seek cardiac catheterization services at NH New Hanover at a greater rate than those from the western regions due to travel distance and time. As an example, travelling from Carolina Shores in the 28467 Zip Code to NH New Hanover in Wilmington takes one hour to drive the 50 miles. This causes western region Brunswick County residents to seek treatment at South Carolina hospitals.

### NHRMC Cath Lab Patient Origin: Brunswick Co. patients only



Source: NH-NHRMC data

Zip Code	2019	2020	2021	2022A
28451	551	536	546	580
28461	332	377	398	308
28462	239	201	225	188
28470	156	140	126	176
28422	119	121	114	84
28465	99	104	128	176
28469	114	121	120	72
28479	92	81	87	100
28467	77	79	110	76
28468	50	52	45	72
28420	51	42	29	36
28452	5	8	2	0
<b>Grand Total</b>	<b>1885</b>	<b>1862</b>	<b>1930</b>	<b>1868</b>

#### Notes:

- The map and table reflect NHRMC cath lab patients from 2019-Mar 2022 with a Brunswick Co. zip code
- Leland zip code 28451 is the clear top Brunswick Co. zip code for cath lab patients at NHRMC
- However, there are more than enough cath lab volumes in Brunswick Co. (even if you exclude zip code 28451) to possibly trigger a need in the SMFP (see next slide for Need Determination)



As the following table indicates, the number of Brunswick County patients receiving cardiac catheterization procedures at NH New Hanover has continued to increase annually since 2016, with only a 1.2 percent decrease in 2020 due to lingering COVID-19 pandemic issues.

# NH Brunswick Medical Center

## Brunswick County historical data

- The table below shows the number of patients from Brunswick County who had a cath lab procedure performed at NHRMC:

Case Type	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022 (through March)	2022A
Diagnostic Cath	980	1,086	1,180	1,290	1,238	1,297	297	1,188
Interventional Cath	141	344	512	595	624	633	170	680
<b>Grand Total</b>	<b>1,121</b>	<b>1,430</b>	<b>1,692</b>	<b>1,885</b>	<b>1,862</b>	<b>1,930</b>	<b>467</b>	<b>1,868</b>
<b>Growth Rate:</b>		27.6%	18.3%	11.4%	-1.2%	3.7%		

## For 2021-2026, Sg2 is projecting a 6% growth rate for inpatient diagnostic and interventional catheterization

As the following table highlights, in 2021, 52.7 percent  $[(1,297 / 2,462) \times 100]$  of diagnostic cardiac catheterization procedures at NH New Hanover were performed on Brunswick County residents, while 23.3 percent  $[(633 / 2,719) \times 100]$  of interventional cardiac catheterization procedures were performed on Brunswick County residents.

Hospital	Cardiac Cath Procedure	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021
NH Brunswick	Diagnostic	0	0	0	8	32	35
NH New Hanover	Diagnostic	2,772	2,863	2,841	3,242	2,723	2,462
	Interventional	1,838	1,870	2,098	2,461	2,004	2,719

Additionally, based on the projected cardiac catheterization volumes included in CON Project ID# O-12112-21 and approved in February 2022, after accounting for a shift in cardiac catheterization volume to Brunswick County, NH New Hanover can accommodate the remaining cardiac catheterization procedures in its six cardiac catheterization labs, as the following table presents:

	Actual	Interim	1 <sup>st</sup> FFY	2 <sup>nd</sup> FFY	3 <sup>rd</sup> FFY
	CY2021	FY2022	CY2023	CY2024	CY2025
Fixed Cardiac Cath Systems	5	5	6	6	6
# Cases*	7,220	7,320	7,492	7,667	7,847
# Cases in Brunswick County****	0	0	0	917	1,097
# Cases Remaining in New Hanover County	7,220	7,320	7,492	6,750	6,750
Capacity**	7,500	7,500	9,000	9,000	9,000
Utilization ***	95.4%	97.6%	83.2%	75.0%	75.0%

\*Cases equal diagnostic-equivalent cases.

\*\*Capacity equates to the number of units of fixed cardiac cath equipment (systems) x 1500

\*\*\*Utilization equates to the # of cases divided by the capacity of the cardiac cath equipment.

\*\*\*\*Assumes cardiac catheterization services begin operation in Brunswick County in CY2024.

**b. A statement of the adverse effects on the population of the affected area that are likely to ensue if the adjustment is not made, and**

Without approval of this petition, residents of Brunswick County must continue traveling to Wilmington or to South Carolina for their cardiac catheterization procedures. This only perpetuates the expense and inconvenience of traveling for a life-saving procedure that could safely be performed within Brunswick County, if appropriate cardiac catheterization equipment were available in Brunswick County.

**c. A statement of alternatives to the proposed adjustment that were considered and found not feasible.**

NH New Hanover does not believe an alternative exists to submitting this adjustment to need determination petition.

The cardiac catheterization procedures performed on Brunswick County patients are necessary for the volume projections for the success of any Brunswick County CON application for shared cardiac catheterization equipment.

**4. Evidence that health service development permitted by the proposed adjustment would not result in unnecessary duplication of health resources in the area: and**

Adjusting the need determination for one (1) unit of cardiac catheterization equipment in New Hanover County will most assuredly not result in duplication of health services in the area, but rather would allow for the development of cardiac catheterization services in Brunswick County, if the NH Brunswick adjustment to need determination petition is approved.

**5. Evidence that the requested adjustment is consistent with the three Basic Principles governing the development of the SMFP: safety and quality, access and value.**

The proposed adjustment is consistent with these basic principles in that safety and quality, access, and value, all of which are associated with the existing provision of cardiac catheterization services in New Hanover County, will not be impacted. Based on the existing number of cardiac catheterization units in New Hanover County, patients from the NH New Hanover service area will continue to receive their cardiac catheterization procedures on six state-of-the-art cardiac catheterization units.

**Conclusion**

NH New Hanover believes that approving this adjustment to need determination petition in conjunction with the NH Brunswick adjustment to need determination petition will increase access to cardiac catheterization services in Brunswick County and strengthen the Novant Health goal to locate more healthcare specialty services in community hospitals, decreasing the necessity to travel to tertiary care facilities for those services, while not negatively impacting cardiac catheterization services in New Hanover County.