

July 26, 2023



Sandra Greene, PhD Chair  
State Health Coordinating Council  
Andrea Emmanuel, PhD Acting Assistant Chief  
Healthcare Planning Section  
Division of Health Service Regulation  
2714 Mail Service Center  
Raleigh, North Carolina 27699-2714

**RE: Carteret Health Care Petition for Shared PET/CT Simulator / Scanner at an Acute Care Hospital in Carteret County, HSA VI, North Carolina**

Dear Dr. Greene and Dr. Emmanuel,

As President of Eastern Radiologists, Inc. I am writing to express the support for the request from Carteret Health Care for an adjusted need determination in the *2024 State Medical Facilities Plan* for one PET/CT linear accelerator/scanner in HSA VI and designate it for a licensed acute care hospital in Carteret County. We provide radiologist services to Carteret Health Care and are pleased to be associated with its excellent Cancer Center.

My colleagues and I know from experience that cancer is increasing in Carteret County. We also understand the value of PET scans both for diagnosis and for radiation therapy planning. A single piece of equipment that can provide both functions is an excellent, cost-effective solution for a situation like Carteret County. We have radiologists who can and do interpret their PET scans and having it on site with access to a full range of PET isotopes would make it so much easier to complete patient care plans.

Dual use would make this technology affordable to a rural health care system, like CHC and enable them to keep costs affordable for their patients and within the scope of their insurance arrangements. With dual use, the second part of the petition, reducing the performance standard from 2,080 to 1,040 scans in the third operating year also makes sense.

Please approve the petition from Carteret Health Care to Include a special need petition from CHC. Thank you for your time and attention to this critical issue.

Regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'Brian S. Kuszyk MD'.

Brian Kuszyk, MD  
President  
Eastern Radiologists, Inc.