

March 12, 2024

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RE: Carteret Health Care Petitions for PET/CT Simulator / Scanner Methodology or Policy Change

Dear Dr. Greene and Dr. Emmanuel,

My name is Julius Taylor. I am writing to support the concepts in the petitions submitted by Carteret Health Care for a policy or methodology change in the *2025 State Medical Facilities Plan* to let midsize cancer centers obtain a certificate of need for a PET scanner.

As a cancer patient from Carteret County (Beaufort, NC), I depend on Carteret Health, an ACR accredited Community Cancer Center for my treatment. This midsize cancer center is constantly busy, and I appreciate what Carteret Health does to bring modern technology to a coastal community that has lots of transportation issues. Getting a mobile PET scanner was an improvement, but Sunday only and even then not offering scans for brain, neurology, breast, or prostate cancers limits the value of the mobile unit.

I am excited to hear about equipment that would make it affordable for a midsize hospital to offer a full range of PET scans every day. At the same time, I am dismayed to learn that the Plan methodology will not provide a path for hospitals like Carteret to acquire such equipment. The methodology provides a path for "major" cancer centers to get the technology. But the definition of "major" sets the level of activity on the two linear accelerators too high for even a busy cancer center like Carteret. Times and technology have changed. A single piece of equipment that can serve two purposes – supporting the linear accelerators and providing regular PET scans, should have a lower threshold. I understand that there is precedent for doing so with dual purpose cardiac catheterization equipment.

Please approve either petition from Carteret Health so that people who have cancer have a close to home alternative for getting the PET scans that are standard of care in cancer treatment. Thank you for your time and attention to this critically important issue.

Regards,

 3/12/24
Julius M. Taylor