

**Technology and Equipment Committee  
Agency Report  
Adjusted Need Determination Petition for  
Cardiac Catheterization Equipment for the  
Proposed 2013 State Medical Facilities Plan**

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***Petitioner:***

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***Contact:***

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***Request:***

Carteret County General Hospital requests an adjusted need determination for one shared fixed cardiac catheterization laboratory in Carteret County in the 2013 State Medical Facilities Plan (SMFP).

***Background Information:***

The Proposed 2013 State Medical Facilities Plan (SMFP) provides two standard need determination methodologies for cardiac catheterization equipment. Methodology One is the standard methodology for determining need for additional fixed cardiac catheterization equipment and Methodology Two is the need determination methodology for shared fixed cardiac catheterization equipment for service areas in which a unit of fixed cardiac catheterization equipment is not located. Application of these methodologies to utilization data in the Proposed 2013 SMFP does not generate a need determination for shared fixed cardiac catheterization equipment in Carteret County and there is currently no fixed or mobile cardiac catheterization laboratory in Carteret County.

Shared fixed cardiac catheterization equipment is defined in the SMFP as “fixed equipment that is used to perform both cardiac catheterization procedures and angiography procedures.” Methodology Two for the shared fixed cardiac catheterization equipment in the Proposed 2013 SMFP is as follows:

For cardiac catheterization equipment service areas in which a unit of fixed cardiac catheterization equipment is not located need exists for one shared fixed cardiac catheterization

equipment (i.e., fixed equipment that is used to perform both cardiac catheterization procedures and angiography procedures) when:

- a. The number of cardiac catheterization procedures as defined in 10A NCAC 14C .1601(5) performed at any mobile site in the cardiac catheterization equipment service area exceeds 240 (300 procedures x 80 percent) procedures per year for each eight hours per week the mobile equipment is operated at that site during the 12-month period reflected in the “2012 Hospital License Renewal Application” or the “2012 Registration and Inventory of Medical Equipment Form” for Cardiac Catheterization equipment on file with the North Carolina Division of Health Service Regulation; and
- b. No other fixed or mobile cardiac catheterization service is provided within the same cardiac catheterization equipment service area.

In deference to the standard methodology, Chapter Two of the North Carolina Proposed 2013 SMFP allows persons to petition for an adjusted need determination in consideration of “...unique or special attributes of a particular geographic area or institution...,” if they believe their needs are not appropriately addressed by the standard methodology. Carteret County General Hospital has submitted a petition to adjust the need determination in order to bring cardiac catheterization services closer to a large and growing population of persons in Carteret County in need of these services.

***Analysis/Implications:***

Methodology One, as it is written, does not apply to Carteret County as it only addresses facilities that currently have a cardiac catheterization laboratory. Methodology Two provides for analysis of the mobile laboratory in a service area that does not currently have a unit of fixed cardiac catheterization equipment. In that circumstance, need is determined for one shared fixed cardiac catheterization equipment when the number of cardiac catheterization procedures performed at the mobile site exceeds 240 procedures per year.

There is no consideration in the standard methodology of the volume of residents across the state that must leave their home county/service area to receive cardiac catheterization services. Patient origin is not considered in the methodologies for cardiac catheterization. Carteret County General Hospital has provided data to show that from 2009 to 2011 approximately 830 to 980 inpatient and 850 to 1200 outpatient cardiac catheterization procedures were referred out of Carteret County and provided to Carteret county residents. This volume is more than enough to reach the standard Methodology Two threshold of 240 procedures to support a shared fixed cardiac catheterization laboratory. The petitioner states that these residents are traveling 45 minutes to two hours to have a cardiac catheterization done. Carteret County has geographic challenges due to size, shape and location with a 100 mile span from one end to another. The petitioner notes that the closest cardiac catheterization laboratory is 42 minutes from Carteret General at CarolinaEast Medical Center in New Bern. According to the petitioner, most

residents of Carteret County are more than 60 minutes from the cardiac catheterization services in New Bern.

An angiography laboratory has been in service in Carteret County since 1989 and it also has a cardiac rehabilitation program. According to the petitioner, Carteret County General Hospital is an active participant in the regional cardiac care network, has a cardiac intensive care unit and is serviced by two groups of cardiologists. Leadership at the hospital is stated to be committed to strengthening their cardiac care program to enhance the cardiac rehabilitation services and expand preventive diagnostic services. The petitioner notes that the cardiologists on staff also serve CarolinaEast (where many residents are currently referred for services) which ensures technical competency with a volume to sustain skills.

It is important to note that this petition is supported by the two major institutions currently receiving the majority of referrals for cardiac catheterization procedures – Carolina East in New Bern and Vidant Medical Center in Greenville. Carteret County General Hospital actively participates in the regional cardiac care program and would continue to do so. If approved, diagnostic procedures will be offered closer to home but the scope of the proposed shared fixed cardiac catheterization laboratory should not adversely affect growth at either institution as referrals for therapeutic procedures and open heart surgery to both CarolinaEast and Vidant Health will continue as the population at risk continues to grow.

***Agency Recommendation:***

The Agency believes that Carteret County has a sufficient number of cardiac patients in need of cardiac catheterization services, a geographically isolated population, and a local health care system available to support a shared fixed cardiac catheterization laboratory. Therefore, given available information and comments submitted by the 8/17/12 deadline, and in consideration of factors discussed above, the Agency recommends that the petition for an adjusted need determination for one additional shared fixed cardiac catheterization laboratory in Carteret County be approved.