
Technology and Equipment Committee

May 29, 2013

Recommendations to the N. C. State Health Coordinating Council

The Technology and Equipment Committee met on April 24, 2013.

Topics reviewed and discussed included:

- Current policies, assumptions and methodologies for Lithotripsy, Gamma Knife, Linear Accelerators, Positron Emission Tomography (PET) Scanners, Magnetic Resonance Imaging (MRI) Scanners and Cardiac Catheterization Equipment for the Proposed 2014 State Medical Facilities Plan;
- Preliminary drafts of need projections generated by the standard methodologies;
- A petition to establish a need methodology for mobile Positron Emission Tomography (PET) Scanner services;
- Follow-up on the rule making process regarding cardiac catheterization discussed at the Technology and Equipment Committee meeting held September 19, 2012.

The following is an overview of the Committee's recommendations for consideration by the North Carolina State Health Coordinating Council (SHCC) in preparation of Chapter 9 - Technology and Equipment - for the Proposed 2014 State Medical Facilities Plan (SMFP). The report is organized by equipment section of Chapter 9 of the SMFP.

Chapter 9: Lithotripsy

There were no petitions or comments on this Section of this Chapter. The Committee reviewed and discussed policies, methodology and assumptions for lithotripsy.

- The inventory has been updated based on available information to reflect any changes, and includes placeholders when applicable. The inventory is subject to further changes.
- Application of the methodology based on data and information currently available results in no draft need determinations at this time. Need determinations are subject to change.

Recommendations Related to Lithotripsy Services:

The Committee recommends the current assumptions, methodology and draft tables be accepted for the Proposed 2014 Plan. Also, references to dates would be advanced one year, as appropriate.

Chapter 9: Gamma Knife

There were no petitions or comments on this Section of this Chapter. The Committee reviewed and discussed policies, methodology and assumptions for gamma knife.

- Based on data and information currently available, no draft need determinations have been identified at this time. Need determinations are subject to change.

Recommendations Related to Gamma Knife Services:

The Committee recommends the current assumptions, methodology and draft tables be accepted for the Proposed 2014 Plan. Also, references to dates would be advanced one year, as appropriate.

Chapter 9: Linear Accelerators

There were no petitions or comments on this Section of this Chapter. The Committee reviewed and discussed policies, methodology and assumptions for linear accelerators.

- The inventory has been updated based on available information to reflect any changes, and includes placeholders when applicable. The inventory is subject to further changes.
- Application of the methodology based on data and information currently available results in one draft need determination. Need determinations are subject to change.
- The need determination is for one additional linear accelerator in Harnett County.

Recommendations Related to the Linear Accelerators:

The Committee recommends the current assumptions, methodology and draft tables be accepted for the Proposed 2014 Plan. Also, references to dates would be advanced one year as appropriate.

Chapter 9: Positron Emission Tomography (PET) Scanners

There was one petition with comments to the petition for this Section of this Chapter.

Petition

Petitioner: MedQuest Associates, Inc. and Novant Health, Inc.

Request: The request was for the establishment of a “methodology for mobile PET scanners that generates a need determination for a new mobile PET scanner when an existing mobile PET/CT scanner in the defined service area exceeds the 2,600 annual procedure capacity” resulting in one additional mobile PET scanner in each of the two service areas.

Comments: We received four comments about the petitions – three in favor of the petition and one opposed.

Committee Recommendation: The Committee reviewed the petition and agency report, which recommended denial of the petition request. Comments on the broad look at combined mobile and fixed PET service capacity and utilization indicated current access and availability of PET scanning services. However, based on input over the past several years, the optimum balance and distribution of mobile PET scanning services may not be in place. The Committee determined that the petition request for the establishment of a “methodology for mobile PET scanners that generates a need determination for a new mobile PET scanner when an existing

mobile PET/CT scanner in the defined service area exceeds the 2,600 annual procedure capacity” be denied. However, recognizing there is an issue, more in-depth analysis and discussion is needed to explore options and alternatives for PET scanning service coverage across the state. The outcome of this analysis and discussion will most likely not be seen until the 2015 SMFP.

The Committee reviewed and discussed policies, methodology and assumptions for PET scanners.

- The inventory has been updated based on available information to reflect any changes, and includes placeholders when applicable. The inventory is subject to further changes.
- Application of the methodology based on data and information currently available results in no draft need determinations at this time. Need determinations are subject to change.

Recommendations Related to Positron Emission Tomography (PET) Scanners:

The Committee recommends that the petition request for the establishment of a “methodology for mobile PET scanners that generates a need determination for a new mobile PET scanner when an existing mobile PET/CT scanner in the defined service area exceeds the 2,600 annual procedure capacity” be denied. Recognizing the issue, more in-depth analysis and discussion will be done by the Technology and Equipment Committee to explore options and alternatives for PET scanning service coverage across the state with a proposed option brought forth during the 2015 SMFP planning process.

The Committee recommends the current assumptions, methodology and draft tables be accepted for the Proposed 2014 Plan. Also, references to dates would be advanced one year, as appropriate.

Chapter 9: Magnetic Resonance Imaging (MRI) Scanners:

There were no petitions or comments on this Section of this Chapter. The Committee reviewed and discussed policies, methodology and assumptions for MRI scanners.

- The Acute Care Bed Service Area were reviewed and updated this year, are described in Chapter 5 and reflected in the MRI tables.
- The inventory has been updated based on available information to reflect any changes, and includes placeholders when applicable. The inventory is subject to further changes.
- Application of the methodology based on data and information currently available, results in one draft need determination at this time. Need determinations are subject to change.
- The need determination is for one additional fixed MRI Scanner in the Mecklenburg MRI Service Area. There is no need for additional mobile MRI Scanners in the state.

Recommendations Related to Magnetic Resonance Imaging (MRI) Scanners:

The Committee recommends the current assumptions, methodology and draft tables be accepted for the Proposed 2014 Plan. Also, references to dates would be advanced one year, as appropriate.

Chapter 9: Cardiac Catheterization Equipment

There were no petitions or comments on this Section of this Chapter. The Committee reviewed and discussed policies, methodology and assumptions for cardiac catheterization.

- The Acute Care Bed Service Area were reviewed and updated this year, are described in Chapter 5 and reflected in the cardiac catheterization tables.
- The inventory has been updated based on available information to reflect any changes, and includes placeholders when applicable. The inventory is subject to further changes.
- Application of the methodology based on data and information currently available, results in one draft need determination for fixed cardiac catheterization equipment at this time. Further, the standard methodology for shared fixed or mobile cardiac catheterization equipment indicated no need for additional units of shared fixed cardiac catheterization equipment in the state. Need determinations are subject to change.
- The need determination is for one additional piece of fixed cardiac catheterization equipment in New Hanover County Cardiac Catheterization Service Area
- For the cardiac catheterization section of this chapter, it is noted that the term Percutaneous Transluminal Coronary Angioplasty (PCTA) Interventional procedure is no longer industry standard. The updated terminology for this type of procedure is Percutaneous Coronary Intervention (PCI) procedures.

Recommendations Related to Cardiac Catheterization Equipment:

The Committee recommends the current assumptions, methodology and draft tables be accepted for the Proposed 2014 Plan. Also, references to dates would be advanced one year, as appropriate.

The committee recommends allowing staff to make the change from PTCA to PCI for this section in narrative and table headings to reflect the current terminology.

Other Recommendations

The Committee authorized staff to update narratives, tables and need determinations for the Proposed 2014 Plan as new and corrected data are received.