

**Technology and Equipment Committee Report
Recommendations to the
North Carolina State Health Coordinating Council
October 2, 2013**

On September 17, 2013, the Technology and Equipment Committee met to consider petitions and comments in response to Chapter 9 of the North Carolina Proposed 2014 State Medical Facilities Plan (SMFP).

The Committee makes the following recommendations for consideration by the North Carolina State Health Coordinating Council in preparation for the Technology and Equipment chapter of the 2014 SMFP.

**Chapter 9: Technology and Equipment
Cardiac Catheterization Equipment Section**

Since the Proposed 2014 SMFP, there have been no changes in need projections for cardiac catheterization equipment. The Proposed 2014 SMFP showed one need determination for an additional fixed unit of cardiac catheterization equipment in the New Hanover County Service Area, but did not show a need determination for shared fixed cardiac catheterization or mobile cardiac catheterization equipment anywhere else in the state.

Cardiac Catheterization Data:

During the summer, two petitions for adjusted need determinations in the cardiac catheterization section in the 2014 SMFP were received. The petition requests and Committee recommendations are summarized below.

Petition 1: Davidson County – Novant Health Thomasville Medical Center

- **Request:** Novant Health Thomasville Medical Center requested an adjusted need determination for one additional unit of shared fixed cardiac catheterization equipment in Davidson County in the 2014 SMFP.
- **Committee Recommendation:** The Committee discussed the petition and agency report, which recommended denial of the petition request. The concurrence was that Davidson County does not have sufficient volume of mobile cardiac patients in need of cardiac catheterization to support a shared fixed cardiac catheterization laboratory and no geographic barriers to impact resident's access to services. The Committee recommends to the SHCC that the petition request be denied for an adjusted need determination for one unit of shared fixed cardiac catheterization equipment in Davidson County.

Petitioner 2: New Hanover County - New Hanover Regional Medical Center

- **Request:** A petition from New Hanover Regional Medical Center requested a change in the 2014 SMFP to remove the need for one additional unit of fixed cardiac catheterization equipment in New Hanover County.

Committee Recommendation: The Committee discussed the petition and agency report, which recommended approval of the petition request. The Committee recognizes that New Hanover Regional Medical Center has unique attributes, such as longer operating hours allowing greater capacity on the equipment currently in the county, as well as being the only potential provider of cardiac catheterization services. The Committee recommends to the SHCC for approval of the petition to remove the need determination for one additional unit of fixed cardiac catheterization equipment in New Hanover County in the 2014 SMFP.

Within the process of the committee discussion of the two submitted petitions was a general discussion about the Cardiac Catheterization methodology. No specific methodology changes were suggested or identified. One committee member expressed an interest in future discussion of the methodology. Dr. Ullrich, the committee chair, noted the request.

Magnetic Resonance Imaging (MRI) Section

The Proposed 2014 SMFP showed one need determination for an additional fixed MRI scanner in Mecklenburg County. Over the summer, the Medical Facilities Planning Branch received updated data resulting in a correction to the MRI scanner inventory table. The changes did not add any MRI scanners to the inventory, but did increase the total number of MRI scans performed, and resulted in a projected need determination in Orange County. The Committee discussed the updated MRI scanner table, and noted the need determinations for two fixed MRI scanners – one in Mecklenburg County and one in Orange County - but no need for additional mobile MRI scanners anywhere else in the state.

MRI Scanner Data:

The Committee received two petitions over the summer for adjusted need determinations in the MRI Scanner section of the 2014 SMFP. The petition requests and Committee recommendations are summarized below.

Petition 1: Person County – Person Memorial Hospital

- **Request:** Person Memorial Hospital requested an adjusted need determination for one fixed MRI scanner in Person County in the 2014 SMFP.
- **Committee Recommendation:** The Committee discussed the petition and agency report, which recommended approval of the petition request. The concurrence was that Person County does have unique circumstances including 1) a sufficient number of Person County residents in need of MRI services; 2) distance to current fixed MRI services; and 3) a local health care system available to support a fixed MRI scanner. The Committee recommends to the SHCC that the petition request be approved for an adjusted need determination for one fixed MRI scanner in Person County.

Petitioner 2: Bladen County - Cape Fear Valley Health System

- **Request:** A petition from Cape Fear Valley Health System requested a change in the 2014 SMFP for one fixed MRI scanner in Bladen County.
- **Committee Recommendation:** The Committee discussed the petition and agency report, which recommended denial of the petition request. There were no unique circumstances or geographic barriers in Bladen County at this time to warrant an adjusted need determination for a fixed MRI

Linear Accelerator Section

Since the Proposed 2014 SMFP, there have been no changes in need projections for linear accelerators. The Proposed 2014 SMFP included one need determination for a linear accelerator in the Harnett County. Harnett County will become a new service due to Harnett County's population increasing to over 120,000 with no linear accelerator in the county. There was no need indicated anywhere else in the state for additional linear accelerators.

Linear Accelerator Data:

One petition for an adjusted need determination in the linear accelerator section in the 2014 SMFP was received during the summer. The petitioner request and Committee recommendation is summarized below.

Petitioner: Duke University Health Systems dba Duke Raleigh Hospital

- **Request:** Duke Raleigh Hospital requested an adjusted need determination for one additional linear accelerator to meet a perceived unmet need in Service area 20 (Wake and Franklin Counties).
- **Committee Recommendation:** The Committee discussed the petition and agency report, which recommended denial of the petition request. The discussion included an update on one CON approved linear accelerator that was approved on February 2011 but has not been developed. This project is still on target to become operational in early 2014. The linear accelerator standard methodology demonstrates that the current inventory, including the CON approved linear accelerator to be developed, is providing sufficient access to linear accelerator services in Service Area 20. However, the consensus of the Committee recognized that Duke Raleigh is unable to increase its inventory to meet demonstrated excess patient demand. Therefore, the Committee recommends to the SHCC that the petition request be approved for one additional linear accelerator in Service Area 20.

Lithotripsy and Gamma Knife Section

Since the Proposed 2014 SMFP, there have been no changes in the need projections for lithotripsy or gamma knife. There is no need identified for lithotripters or gamma knives anywhere in the state. The Committee received no petitions or comments over the summer regarding the lithotripsy or gamma knife section of the Proposed 2014 SMFP.

Positron Emission Tomography (PET) Scanners Section

Since the Proposed 2014 SMFP, there have been no changes in the need projections for PET scanners. There is no need determination for additional fixed or mobile PET scanners anywhere in the state.

The Committee received no petitions but did receive comments over the summer regarding the PET scanner section of the Proposed 2014 SMFP. The Committee discussed the issues brought forth in the comments. No motion was required or taken on this topic on the comments.

Comprehensive Motion

The Committee recommends to the State Health Coordinating Council approval of Chapter 9: Technology and Equipment with the understanding that staff is authorized to continue making necessary updates to the narratives, tables and need determinations as indicated.

Other Action

To follow up with the commitment made at the April 24, 2013 Technology and Equipment Committee meeting to review the options and alternatives for PET methodology, discussion was opened up to all in attendance. The discussion included observations on the capacity for mobile and fixed PET scanners as well as general discussion points on the PET methodology. The agency will receive ideas and suggestions regarding PET methodology via email to Shelley Carraway. These ideas will be posted on a website to allow a forum for exchange of possible suggestions on PET methodology.