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# Technology and Equipment Committee Report

## Recommendations to the North Carolina State Health Coordinating Council

October 1, 2014

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On September 9, 2014, the Technology and Equipment Committee met to consider petitions and comments in response to Chapter 9 of the North Carolina Proposed 2015 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 2015 SMFP.

### **Chapter 9: Technology and Equipment**

#### **Positron Emission Tomography (PET) Scanners Section**

Since the Proposed 2015 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. Since the last State Health Coordinating Council meeting there were minor corrections to data in Table 9L that did not result in changes to any need determinations. The committee voted to include mobile and fixed PET methodology on the agenda for next year.

The committee did not receive any petitions for the PET scanner section, but received a total of nine comments regarding the Policy *TE-1: Conversion of Fixed PET Scanners to Mobile PET Scanners*. Over the summer, based on these comments further edits were made to the policy. The committee reviewed the new draft policy. It voted on and approved the policy as presented at the meeting with one change; there will be one annual review date for all applicants.

Furthermore, as a result of the spring vote to remove the east and west health services areas, the committee reviewed the language for the PET section and new draft Tables 9M(1) and 9M(2). They voted to amend the language to include the verbiage delineating a statewide service area for PET scanners and to make changes to the tables as presented by DHSR with one requested edit; they asked that the total utilization rate for each individual scanner be included in Table 9M(1).

#### **Cardiac Catheterization Equipment Section**

Since the Proposed 2015 SMFP, there have been no changes in need projections for cardiac catheterization equipment. The Proposed 2015 SMFP showed no need determinations for fixed, shared fixed cardiac catheterization or mobile cardiac catheterization equipment anywhere in the state.

***Cardiac Catheterization Data:***

During the summer, one petition for an adjusted need determination in the cardiac catheterization section in the 2015 SMFP was received.

***Petition: Wake County – Rex Healthcare***

- **Request:** Rex Healthcare requested an adjusted need determination for one additional unit of fixed cardiac catheterization equipment in Wake County in the 2015 SMFP.
- **Committee Recommendation:** The Committee discussed the petition and agency report, which recommended denial of the petition request. The concurrence was that Wake County: 1) has a trend of a declining volume of cardiac catheterization; 2) has a surplus of machines in the service area; and 3) will potentially see further volume declines because of changes in statewide regulations and medical practice. The Committee recommends to the SHCC that the petition request be denied for an adjusted need determination for one unit of fixed cardiac catheterization equipment in Wake County.

**Magnetic Resonance Imaging (MRI) Section**

The Proposed 2015 SMFP showed two need determinations for additional fixed MRI scanners in Lincoln and New Hanover counties. Over the summer, the Medical Facilities Planning Branch received updated data resulting in corrections to the MRI scanner inventory table. The changes did not add any MRI scanners to the inventory, nor did they add any additional need determinations.

***MRI Scanner Data:***

The Committee received one petition over the summer for an adjusted need determination in the MRI Scanner section of the 2015 SMFP. The petition request and Committee recommendation are summarized below.

***Petition: Lincoln County – Carolinas Healthcare System***

- **Request:** Carolinas Healthcare System requested an adjusted need determination to remove the need for one fixed MRI scanner in Lincoln County.
- **Committee Recommendation:** The Committee discussed the petition and agency report, which recommended approval of the petition request. The concurrence was that Lincoln County does have unique circumstances including a slow projected growth rate in the county that would probably preclude existing or new providers from meeting the CON standards for a qualified applicant and potential changes to future MRI volumes. The Committee recommends to the SHCC that the petition request be approved for an adjusted need determination.

**Linear Accelerator Section**

Since the Proposed 2015 SMFP, there have been no changes in need projections for linear accelerators. The Proposed 2015 SMFP included one need determination for a linear accelerator in the Harnett County. Harnett County becomes a new service area 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.

**Lithotripsy and Gamma Knife Section**

Since the Proposed 2015 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 2015 SMFP.

**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.