

DRAFT Policy TE-3: Certificate of Need for Fixed MRI Scanners in Community Hospitals

A certificate of need may be issued to a hospital licensed under GS 131E, Article 5, without regard to the MRI need shown in Chapter 9: Magnetic Resonance Imaging, provided that the certificate of need application demonstrates the following:

1. The hospital currently contracts for MRI services with an unrelated vendor;
2. The hospital performed a minimum of 858 weighted MRI scans in the twelve months immediately prior to the submission of the certificate of need application;
3. The hospital demonstrates that it will perform at least 1,716 weighted MRI scans during the third year of operation following the completion of the project;
4. The existing MRI service will be terminated once the new fixed MRI scanner begins service;
5. The hospital demonstrates that acquisition of an MRI scanner by the facility will reduce the hospital's costs of providing MRI services which will be passed on to patients and third party payors in the form of lower charges.