

B. GAMMA KNIVES

Introduction

"Gamma knife," as defined in G.S.131E-176(7c), means "equipment which emits photon beams from a stationary radioactive cobalt source to treat lesions deep within the brain and is one type of stereotactic radiosurgery." Two types of equipment, both using photon beams, perform this kind of radiosurgery. In one type, beams from a linear accelerator are focused from a device that rotates around the patient. The other type of equipment, gamma knife, emits 201 beams from stationary radioactive cobalt sources.

North Carolina has two gamma knife planning regions (service areas), the western region (HSAs I, II, and III) and the eastern region (HSAs IV, V, and VI). The gamma knife at North Carolina Baptist Hospital in Forsyth County (HSA II) serves the western region. This facility performed 495 procedures during the reporting year. The gamma knife at Vidant Medical Center in Pitt County (HSA VI) serves the eastern region. This facility performed 148 procedures during the reporting year.

Table 17B-1: Gamma Knife Need Determination

Gamma Knife Planning Region	HSA	Gamma Knife Need Determination*	Certificate of Need Application Due Date**	Certificate of Need Beginning Review Date
It is determined that there is no need anywhere in the state and no reviews are scheduled.				

* Need determinations shown in this document may be increased or decreased during the year pursuant to Policy GEN-2 (see Chapter 4).

** Application due dates are absolute deadlines. The filing deadline is 5:30 p.m. on the application due date. (see Chapter 3).