

Suggested Policy AC-6 and Chapter 7 Revisions

Policy AC-6: Heart-Lung Bypass Machines for Emergency Coverage

To protect cardiac surgery patients, who may require emergency procedures while scheduled procedures are underway, ~~a need is determined for one additional heart lung bypass machine whenever a hospital is operating an open heart surgery program with only one heart lung bypass machine~~ any hospital with an open heart surgery program that has only one heart-lung bypass machine may submit a certificate of need application for a second machine. The additional machine is to be used to assure appropriate coverage for emergencies and in no instance shall this machine be scheduled for use at the same time as the machine used to support scheduled open-heart surgery procedures. A certificate of need application for a machine acquired in accordance with this provision shall be exempt from compliance with the performance standards set forth in 10A NCAC 14C .1703.

Chapter 7 narrative

The SMFP does not have a methodology to project need for ~~additional~~ new open-heart surgery services. A summer petition is required to place a need for a new service in the upcoming SMFP. If the need determination is approved, any person may apply for a certificate of need to obtain the new service.

The SMFP also does not have a methodology to project need for additional heart-lung bypass machines. Facilities that would like to acquire machines other than a second one for emergency coverage as set forth in Policy AC-6 must submit a summer petition. If the need determination is approved, certificate of need applications submitted for these machines will be subject to the performance standards established in 10A NCAC 14C .1703.