

Technology and Equipment Committee
Agency Report
Petition for an Adjusted Need Determination for One Unit of Shared Fixed
Cardiac Catheterization Equipment in the Brunswick County Service Area in
the 2023 State Medical Facilities Plan

Petitioners:

Novant Health Brunswick Medical Center
240 Hospital Drive NE
Bolivia, NC 28422

Contact:

Andrea Gymer
VP Operational Planning and Innovation
(336) 341-0408
amgymer@novanthealth.org

Request:

Novant Health Brunswick Regional Medical Center (*NH Brunswick*) requests an adjusted need determination for one unit of shared fixed cardiac catheterization equipment in the Brunswick County service area in the *2023 State Medical Facilities Plan (SMFP or "Plan")*.

Background Information:

Chapter Two of the SMFP provides that “[a]nyone who finds that the North Carolina State Medical Facilities Plan policies or methodologies, or the results of their application, are inappropriate may petition for changes or revisions. Such petitions are of two general types: those requesting changes in basic policies and methodologies, and those requesting adjustments to the need projections.” The SMFP annual planning process and timeline allow for submission of petitions for changes to policies and methodologies in the spring and petitions requesting adjustments to need projections in the summer. Any person may submit a certificate of need (CON) application for a need determination in the Plan. The CON review could be competitive and there is no guarantee that the Petitioner would be the approved applicant.

The cardiac catheterization section of Chapter 17 of the SMFP has two methodologies. Methodology 2 is relevant to Brunswick County because it has no fixed cardiac catheterization equipment. A service area that does not have a fixed unit of cardiac catheterization equipment has a need if the service area has a mobile unit that exceeds 80% of mobile capacity during the current year for each 8 hours per week the mobile unit is operational at the site. Capacity for a mobile cardiac catheterization unit is 300 procedures, therefore 80% of capacity for a mobile unit is 240 procedures.

Novant Health Brunswick has submitted a Petition to request an adjusted need determination for one additional unit of shared fixed cardiac catheterization equipment for Brunswick County in the 2023 SMFP for the following reasons: 1) the service area does not have a fixed unit of cardiac

catheterization equipment; 2) a large number of patients migrate to New Hanover County; and 3) the area has experienced an increase in heart and vascular patients and services.

Analysis/Implications:

Brunswick County has two acute care hospitals, NH Brunswick and J. Arthur Doshier Memorial Hospital. DLP Cardiac Partners has been providing mobile services to the Brunswick County service area for twelve years. NH Brunswick performed 35 mobile procedures in the 2021 reporting year. Since 2019, NH Brunswick has seen a 337.5% growth in procedures (see Table 1), with a compound average growth rate (CAGR) of 120.08%. However, these percentages only reflect an increase of eight procedures to 35 procedures since the 2021 SMFP.

Table 1: Service Area Trends in Unweighted Cardiac Catheterization Procedures, Data Years 2019 – 2021

	2021 SMFP	2022 SMFP	Proposed 2023 SMFP	Total % Change	CAGR
Brunswick	8	32	35	337.5%	120.08%
New Hanover	5,703	4,727	5,181	-9.15%	-4.69
Service Area Annual Change		300%	9.3%		

Source: 2020 – 2022 License Renewal Applications

Note: The data in the SMFP is two years earlier than the publication year of the SMFP.

To illustrate patient migration, the Petitioner provided the number of Brunswick County patients that have cardiac catheterization procedures at New Hanover Regional Medical Center (NHRMC) (see Table 2). Based on this table, 1,930 of the 5,181 cardiac catheterization procedures from the 2021 reporting year performed at NHRMC were on Brunswick County patients. The threshold to obtain a fixed unit of cardiac catheterization equipment is 1,200 procedures. Were these patients able to be seen in Brunswick County, this capacity would support a unit of shared fixed cardiac catheterization equipment.

Table 2: NHRMC Patient Origin, Brunswick County NH Brunswick Medical Center

Brunswick County historical data

- The table below shows the number of patients from Brunswick County who had a cath lab procedure performed at NHRMC:

Case Type	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022 (through March)	2022A
Diagnostic Cath	980	1,086	1,180	1,290	1,238	1,297	297	1,188
Interventional Cath	141	344	512	595	624	633	170	680
Grand Total	1,121	1,430	1,692	1,885	1,862	1,930	467	1,868
Growth Rate:		27.6%	18.3%	11.4%	-1.2%	3.7%		

For 2021-2026, Sg2 is projecting a 6% growth rate for inpatient diagnostic and interventional catheterization

Source: Novant Health Brunswick Medical Center 2022 Summer Petition

Finally, Brunswick County’s population is steadily increasing. The annual change rate is 0.88% over the past four years (see Table 3). Specifically, Census data from the NC Office of State Budget and Management reports that the 65 and older population of Brunswick County has increased by 13.08% since 2019, compared to a 2.66% increase for the county population. Cardiac catheterization services are more common in the aging population, which supports the projected increase in utilization.

Table 3: Annual Brunswick County Population Totals, Years 2019-2022

County	2019	2020	2021	2022	Total Percent Change	CAGR
Brunswick	139,829	146,135	150,889	143,549	2.66%	0.88%
65 and over Population	40,983	43,047	44,685	46,345	13.08%	4.18%

Source: State Medical Facilities Plan

Agency Recommendation:

The Agency supports the standard methodology for cardiac catheterization equipment. However, in consideration of the above, the Agency recognizes that the Brunswick County service area has unique attributes sufficient enough to support an additional unit of shared fixed cardiac catheterization equipment. Given available information submitted by the August 10, 2022 deadline, and in consideration of factors discussed above, the Agency recommends approval of the petition to add a need determination for an additional unit of shared fixed cardiac catheterization equipment for the Brunswick County service area in the 2023 SMFP.