



Central Carolina Hospital

August 2, 2010

Representative William Wainwright
Chairman
North Carolina State Health Coordinating Council
2714 Mail Service Center
Raleigh, NC 27699-2714

DFS Health Planning
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MEDICAL FACILITIES
PLANNING SECTION

Re: Central Carolina Hospital.
Petition for an Adjustment to the Shared Fixed Cardiac Catheterization Equipment
Need Determination for Lee County

Dear Representative Wainwright:

I am a cardiologist in practice at Sanford Cardiology and in Sanford, NC and a member of the medical staff of Central Carolina Hospital since 2004.

The mobile cardiac catheterization service at Central Carolina Hospital (CCH) has been well accepted by the community and referring physicians. Nevertheless, because the cardiac catheterization service at CCH is not available five days a week, many patients are referred elsewhere as time is critical for optimal patient care. CCH physicians and the CCH emergency department refer a significant number of cardiac catheterization patients to Moore Regional Hospital, UNC Hospitals, and Duke University Hospital due to unavailability of mobile service. Many patients of CCH in need of a cardiac catheterization procedure at times when the mobile equipment is unavailable, however, refuse to make a trip to Pinehurst, Chapel Hill or Durham despite the exceptional quality available at these hospitals. For those patients, travel and cost are significant barriers to care. Shared fixed cardiac catheterization services need to be available to CCH patients on a full-time basis.

CCH's development of shared fixed cardiac catheterization equipment in Lee County will promote cost-effective approaches, expand health care services to the medically underserved, and encourage quality health care services by providing more efficient health care services to the patient population served by CCH.

Please convey to the members of the Technology & Equipment Committee and the State Health Coordinating Council, the approval and enthusiastic support of my colleagues for the Petition of Central Carolina Hospital.

Sincerely,

Mahmoud Atieh, MD
Sanford Cardiology