

Petition

Request for Revision to the 2012 State Medical Facilities Plan Adjustment to Need Determinations

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Petitioner:

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DFS Health Planning
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Medical Facilities
PLANNING SECTION

Statement of the requested adjustment

Personal Home Care of North Carolina, LLC requests the following special need change to the *2012 State Medical Facilities Plan (SMFP)*.

Chapter 12, Home Health Services, should be changed as follows:

**Table 12D Medicare-certified Home Health Agency or Office
Need Determinations**
(Proposed for Certificate of Need Review Commencing in 2012)

It is determined that the counties listed in the table below need additional Medicare-certified home health agency or office as specified.

County	HSA	Home Health Agencies/ Office Need Determination	CON Application * Due Date	CON Beginning Review Date
Mecklenburg	III	1	TBD	TBD

Reasons for the proposed adjustment

The proposed *2012 SMFP* does not include in its Home Health Inventory for Mecklenburg County in Region F (Table 12A excerpts are attached), the Mecklenburg County Home Health agency, Personal Home Care of North Carolina, LLC. The CON is effective October 9, 2009, and was certified for Medicare participation May 25, 2010.

Year-to-date, Personal Home Care of North Carolina has served 180 patients. New agencies are typically recognized with a placeholder of 275 patients. The failure to include either the 180 patients actually served, or the 275-patients placeholder results in a Mecklenburg County bed deficit of 648 home health agency patients and, thus, generates a need determination for 2 additional Mecklenburg County home health agencies.

Some reasons Personal Home Care of North Carolina may have been omitted from the inventory of home health agencies include:

1. It was simply overlooked.
2. The State sent the wrong form to the agency.

Statement of adverse effects on the population of the affected area that are likely to ensue if the adjustment is not made

If the adjustment is not made to the inventory in Table 12A, Table 12D will continue to show a need determination for two additional home health agencies in Mecklenburg County. Adding two new agencies will result in too much supply. If the need determination is eliminated altogether, the result will be an uneven supply of home health agencies in the county. The only way to ensure steady growth of home health agencies in Mecklenburg County is to adjust Table 12A to include the Personal Home Care of North Carolina demonstration project in the inventory of home health agencies. Table 12D will; thus, adjust to show the correct need determination of 1 additional home health agency in Mecklenburg County.

Statement of alternatives to the proposed adjustment that were considered and found not feasible

A project could be excluded from the inventory because it was created in response to a special need. However, that special need for persons who speak languages other than Spanish or English is still a part of the Mecklenburg County population. Moreover, Personal Home Care of North Carolina is also responding to another critical population of medically underserved persons, regardless of language. It is serving persons who are underinsured and babies of substance-abuser mothers. Both are difficult populations and Personal Home Care of North Carolina is rapidly gaining a good reputation for its capacity and willingness to serve both well, in addition to serving the language-challenged population of the county.

Evidence that the health service development permitted by the proposed adjustment would not result in unnecessary duplication of health resources in the area

Reducing the need in the *2012 SMFP* will reduce the risk of unnecessary duplication by counting an existing agency that is not restricted from serving any patient.

Evidence that the requested adjustment is consistent with the three Basic Principles governing the development of the SMFP

Safety and Quality

Personal Home Care of North Carolina has been re-certified deficiency-free by Medicare, and has installed electronic medical records with all of its nursing staff. It is a full service agency, offering all Medicare Home Health Agency services.

Access

Personal Home Care of North Carolina is the default provider of care for medically underserved and socially underserved patients, and is regularly sought out by Carolinas Medical Center hospital discharge planners for both the non-English speaking home health referrals and for difficult to serve chronic care older patients and substance abuse withdrawal babies.

Value

Personal Home Care of North Carolina offers its services without regard to patient ability to pay, accepting Medicaid, Medicare and persons on self pay or who have severely restricted private insurance. This younger group is often overlooked by home health agency planners.