



**Cardiology**

August 16, 2011

Honorable William Wainwright, Chairman  
State Health Coordinating Council  
Division of Health Service Regulation  
2714 Mail Service Center,  
Raleigh, NC 27699-2714

RE: Support for Iredell Health System Petition for Special Need for Shared Fixed Cardiac Catheterization Laboratory

Dear Chairman Wainwright,

You have heard about Iredell Health System's need for more cardiac catheterization laboratory capacity from the Board, Administration and my colleague physicians. I wish to add my personal support for the special need petition.

The attention to quality outcomes at Iredell Memorial was a key factor in my decision to come to Statesville in May 2010. I have now been on the medical staff for about 16 months and can assure you that the focus on teamwork throughout the hospital is excellent. This part of the state and this hospital serve a significant number of people with complex chronic diseases that result in cardiac and circulatory problems. Here, I have the support of not only an excellent cardiac catheterization program, but the aftercare follow up to get patients and their families involved in healthy behavior changes. This is much harder to do when patients go an hour or more away for part of their care. I personally do about 20 to 40 procedures a month at Iredell Memorial.

To assure maximum safety for our therapeutic catheterization patients, staff routinely participates in emergency procedure drills with the open heart surgery hospitals in Charlotte and Winston-Salem. Open heart staff at one of those hospitals is always on standby when Iredell Memorial conducts therapeutic procedures. This goes beyond requirements, but assures me and my patients that they are protected, should the unexpected happen. Our local emergency transport staff is fully integrated into the patient safety program.

Inside Iredell County, there are other cardiac catheterization laboratories, even some very new equipment. Please realize that the equipment is only a small part of the total service. The numbers speak for themselves. I look at these programs and choose to work at Iredell Memorial because I know that I will be supported well in the cardiac catheterization laboratory with excellent technologists and biomedical support, and also by the emergency department, laboratory, and recovery staff. My patients

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get excellent nursing care on the units and in the outpatient departments. Referring physicians see the same good outcomes.

You can understand my frustration when patients must wait because our single catheterization laboratory is in use, and equipment across the hall is available but cannot be used because it lacks State Plan and Certificate of Need clearance. As a person who also uses that angiography laboratory for vascular procedures, I can assure you that doing cardiac catheterization procedures there will work. It is certainly a cost effective, high value, quality solution to our current dilemma

Iredell has proposed a good solution. Please approve this petition and permit Iredell Health System to file a Certificate of Need as quickly as possible. Thank you for your time.

Regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "DeBeradinis". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large initial "D" and "B".

Charles DeBeradinis, MD

cc: Christopher Ullrich, MD, Committee Chairman Technology and Equipment Committee  
Drexdal Pratt, Director, Division of Health Service Regulation  
Elizabeth Brown, Chief, Planning Section