

State Health Coordinating Council  
Public Hearing Comments  
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Atrium Health  
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Good morning. My name is Michael Mallowney, Vice President of Neurosciences Institute with Atrium Health, based in Charlotte, NC. Thank you for the opportunity to present to the State Health Coordinating Council (SHCC) today.

Atrium Health respectfully petitions the State Health Coordinating Council (SHCC) to create a special allocation for one gamma knife unit to meet the stereotactic radiosurgery needs of citizens in the western portion of the state (Health Service Areas I, II, and III) in the 2020 State Medical Facilities Plan (SMFP).

Atrium Health, formerly Carolinas Healthcare System, is one of the nation's leading healthcare organizations, connecting patients with world-class care. Atrium is an integrated delivery system providing healthcare services to communities across North Carolina, South Carolina and Georgia with over 40 hospitals, 900 care locations, and 65,000 employees. Annually, Atrium provides over \$1.87B in community benefit to the communities we serve.

The Neurosciences Institute at Atrium Health is a leading destination for advanced neurological and neurosurgical care, focusing on innovative, patient-centered care that is value driven across the care continuum. The Neurosciences Institute represent advanced specialists in medical and surgical treatment for the entire spectrum of brain and spine disorders, including

- The largest and most comprehensive neurosurgery program in the Carolinas with over 2,900+ cranial surgeries and 2,750+ spine surgeries per year
- Subspecialty expertise in Neuromuscular disease, Parkinson's disease, Multiple Sclerosis, Functional neurosurgery, neurovascular surgery, brain tumor surgery, and stereotactic radiosurgery. These programs collectively represent a regional referral center for advanced subspecialty care.

The Neurosciences Institute is a leader in Stereotactic radiosurgery with highly trained, national experts in this clinical specialty. We have a very large program today that is currently at capacity. Without the addition of Gamma Knife outlined in the proposed petition, we will be limited in our ability to meet the growing need for Stereotactic Radiosurgery in our region.

Stereotactic radiosurgery (SRS) uses many precisely focused radiation beams to treat tumors and other problems in the brain, neck, lungs, liver, spine and other parts of the body. SRS is used instead of, or in conjunction with, traditional (i.e., open) surgery due to its extreme accuracy, efficiency and outstanding therapeutic response. Gamma knife surgery is a type of stereotactic radiosurgery, primarily used for treating brain disorders. Beyond brain tumors and benign brain lesions, there is growing use in treating functional disorders such as trigeminal neuralgia, Movement Disorders, and Parkinson's as well as vascular disorders such as arteriovenous malformations (AVM). Atrium has physician expertise and thought-leaders in all these specialty areas

Atrium Health is uniquely positioned to meet the growing stereotactic radiosurgery needs of citizens in the western portion of the state (Health Service Areas I, II, and III) with the acquisition of a Gamma Knife. Atrium Health serves a large regional population within Western

North Carolina and beyond, offers patients comprehensive multidisciplinary clinical expertise in neurosurgery, radiation oncology, and neuro-oncology, and nationally recognized providers commitment to advancing the science of radio-surgical care through active research and publication.

Again, thank you for the opportunity to present our petition application to the State Health Coordinating Council (SHCC) to create a special allocation for one gamma knife unit in the 2020 State Medical Facilities Plan (SMFP).

At this time, I would like to introduce Dr. Anthony Asher, Director and Chief of Clinical Operations of Neurosciences Institute at Atrium Health. Dr. Asher is a distinguished neurosurgeon and nationally recognized clinical expert in stereotactic radiosurgery.