



Ms. Micheala Mitchell
Chief, Healthcare Planning and Certificate of Need
NC Division of Health Services Regulation
809 Ruggles Drive
Raleigh, NC 27603

RE: Letter of support for the petition to change the general need for PET/CT to a special need determination in the 2025 SMFP by MH Mission Hospital, LLLP

Dear Ms. Mitchell:

I am writing in support of Mission Hospital's petition to remove the general need for PET/CT in HSA I and to include a special need determination for Cardiac PET/CT.

The use of PET for cardiac imaging is an evolving application for this technology with new clinical implications being rapidly developed by researchers. With the increasing support and recommendations, the modality is receiving, it will be used more often as an initial test to diagnose a variety of chronic heart conditions. This increase in demand will further increase the need for expansion of PET/CT capacity to meet the needs of service area patients.

This emergence of cardiac PET is not considered in the SMFP or the PET need determination, and as a result, western North Carolina is the only region in the state without a cardiac PET program. The patients in need of this service are often the sickest in the region who have been transferred to the closest tertiary care center. Transport to Charlotte, the closest location of cardiac PET/CT to Mission Hospital, is not safe or practical for these patients.

Mission is the second largest cardiovascular provider in the state. Of the Top 5 cardiovascular providers, Mission is the only one without a cardiac PET/CT services. The need determination for a general fixed PET unit will not meet the needs of this service area for cardiac PET services nor bring a meaningful increase in access to PET services. The service area currently has four existing and/or approved fixed PET units that are primarily, and some exclusively, used for oncology imaging. All of the providers, except Mission, have adequate capacity available to meet their needs now and into the future. However, a fixed cardiac PET scanner in HSA I will offer unique diagnostic capabilities that are currently unavailable in HSA I.

For these reasons, I urge you to consider Mission's petition to adjust the need for PET/CT services in the 2025 SMFP. Should you have any questions, please contact me.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'C. D. L.' or similar, written in a cursive style.



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Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Audie Bowen".



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A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Chang Lin, MD'. The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name 'Chang' and last name 'Lin' clearly legible, followed by 'MD'.