

Acute Care Services Committee
Agency Report for
Adjusted Need Determination Petition Regarding the
Proposed 2011 State Medical Facilities Plan
Columbus Regional Healthcare System

Petitioner:

Columbus Regional Healthcare System (CRHS)
500 Jefferson Street
Whiteville, NC 28472
Attn: Henry Hawthorne
President and Chief Executive Officer of CRHS
(910) 642-1776, hhawthorne@crhealthcare.org

Request:

The petitioner requests an adjustment to Tables 6A, Operating Room Inventory, and 6B, Operating Room Need Determination, for the 2011 State Medical Facilities Plan (SMFP) to correct a data reporting error. Using the standard methodology, the updated data eliminates the need determination for one operating room in Columbus County. Therefore, CRHS requests that its number of inpatient and ambulatory cases in the operating room need inventory be corrected and that the need determination for an operating room in Columbus County be eliminated.

Background Information:

The Operating Room (OR) need methodology consists of several steps, which result in the number of ORs needed in OR service areas. The methodology uses a projected number of surgical hours, calculated by multiplying an estimate of surgery hours for inpatient and ambulatory cases for the previous year (data year) by the projected population change between the data year and the target year (four years from the data year). The number of operating rooms required by the target year is the result of dividing the projected number of surgical hours for the target year by 1,872 hours, which is the standard number of hours per OR per year based on assumptions used in the SMFP. The final methodology step, the number of additional ORs needed, is determined by subtracting the projected total number of required ORs from the current OR inventory, less excluded ORs, and adjusting any deficit depending on the number of existing ORs in the service area.

In deference to the standard methodology, Chapter Two of the North Carolina 2011 Proposed SMFP allows persons to petition for an adjusted need determination if they believe their needs are not appropriately addressed by the standard methodology. In this instance, the petitioner reports that they found errors in CRHS's revised 2010 License Renewal Application submitted to the Agency in the spring. Table 6A of the Proposed 2011 SMFP reflected the numbers submitted by CRHS in the spring, i.e., 1,907 inpatient cases and 2,579 ambulatory cases for fiscal year 2009. The updated numbers as described in the petition are 1,497 inpatient cases and 3,206 ambulatory cases.

Analysis/Implications:

The North Carolina 2011 Proposed SMFP includes a need determination in Columbus County for one OR, calculated using the standard methodology and data available at the time. The need determination was based on an adjusted planning inventory of five ORs, and a total need for 5.21 ORs, resulting in a deficit of 0.21 ORs in Columbus County. In accordance with the standard methodology, the 0.21 deficit was rounded up to the next whole number, since there are five ORs in the county.

The petitioner reports 1,497 inpatient surgery cases, which is 1,369 cases when the 128 C-Section cases are excluded, and 3,206 ambulatory surgery cases for data year 2009. The revised numbers used in the standard methodology result in a total need of 4.85 ORs in Columbus County. With an adjusted planning inventory of five ORs, there is a surplus of 0.15 ORs in the service area; therefore, the need determination is zero for Columbus County for the 2011 SMFP.

Agency Recommendation:

The updated data provided by Columbus Regional Healthcare System and the standard methodology for ORs result in there being a determination of no need for new ORs in Columbus County. The Agency recommends that the petition be approved, and that Tables 6A, 6B and 6C in the 2011 SMFP reflect the changes accordingly.