

Technology and Equipment Committee

Recommendations to the North Carolina State Health Coordinating Council

October 13, 2010

The Technology and Equipment Committee met on September 8, 2010 to consider petitions and comments received in response to Chapter Nine of the Proposed 2011 North Carolina State Medical Facilities Plan (N.C. SMFP). Materials related to this report, such as agency reports on petitions, petitions and comments and other documents referred to in this report are included in the material that has been posted to the North Carolina Division of Health Service Regulation's web site for the October 13, 2010 Council Meeting.

Following is a report of the Committee's recommendations for Chapter Nine of the 2011 N.C. SMFP.

Linear Accelerator Section

The Council received no petitions or comments over the summer regarding the Linear Accelerator section of the 2011 N.C. SMFP. The Committee reviewed the linear accelerator tables and noted that there are no need determinations for linear accelerators anywhere in the state. The Committee recommends approval of the linear accelerator section for the 2011 N.C. SMFP.

Positron Emission Tomography (PET) Scanners Section

Petitions:

The Council received one petition over the summer regarding the PET Scanner section of the 2011 N.C. SMFP.

1. Petitioner: neo pet, LLC

Request: neo pet, LLC (the official company name is not capitalized) requests an adjusted need determination for one mobile PET scanner for the western region of the state.

Committee Recommendation: The Committee concluded that there is sufficient combined fixed and mobile PET service capacity in western North Carolina. Therefore, the Committee recommends that the petition be denied.

Additional Committee Recommendation: The Committee reviewed the PET scanner tables and noted that there are no need determinations for mobile or fixed PET scanners anywhere in the state. The Committee recommends approval of the PET scanner section for the 2011 N.C. SMFP.

Magnetic Resonance Imaging (MRI) Section

Petitions:

The Council received one petition over the summer regarding the MRI Scanner section of the 2011 N.C. SMFP.

1. Petitioner: Southeastern Orthopaedic Specialists, P.A. (SOS)

Request: The petitioner requests an adjusted need determination for a fixed MRI scanner in Guilford County for the 2011 N.C. SMFP.

Committee Recommendation: The Committee considered information about the petition, including the volume of mobile MRI procedures performed at SOS, and that the mobile MRI equipment serving SOS is a grandfathered unit belonging to Alliance Healthcare. The standard methodology indicates that the 0.90 fixed equivalency for the mobile procedures performed at SOS, and the 1.00 placeholder for the 2009 N.C. SMFP need determination should be included in the 2011 N.C. SMFP, resulting in no need determination for a fixed MRI scanner in Guilford County. The Committee concluded that there are not sufficiently unique circumstances in Guilford County to warrant an adjusted need determination for a fixed MRI scanner. Therefore, the Committee recommends that the petition be denied.

Comments:

The Committee acknowledged receipt of comments in support of language in the Proposed 2011 N.C. SMFP regarding no need determination for additional mobile MRI scanners in the state.

Additional Committee Recommendation: The Committee reviewed tables for MRI scanners, and noted that there is a need determination for a fixed MRI scanner each in Gaston, Pitt-Greene-Hyde and Mecklenburg service areas, and no need for additional mobile MRI scanners anywhere in the state. The Committee recommends approval of the MRI section for the 2011 N.C. SMFP.

Cardiac Catheterization Equipment Section

Petitions:

The Council received one petition over the summer regarding the Cardiac Catheterization Equipment section of the 2011 N.C. SMFP.

1. Petitioner: Central Carolina Hospital

Request: The petitioner requests an adjusted need determination for shared fixed cardiac catheterization equipment for Lee County for the 2011 N.C. SMFP.

Committee Recommendation: The Committee considered and discussed the Agency recommendation to deny the petition, based in part on the volume of mobile cardiac catheterization procedures provided in Lee County, which, at 174 procedures, did not meet the threshold of 240 procedures established through the standard methodology. Committee members learned additional information from the petitioner during the Committee meeting, and decided that sufficiently unique circumstances exist in Lee County to warrant an adjusted need determination for one unit of shared fixed cardiac catheterization equipment. Therefore, the Committee recommends approval of the petition.

Additional Committee Recommendation: The Committee noted that there are no need determinations, other than the adjusted need determination for Lee County, for cardiac catheterization equipment anywhere else in the state. The Committee recommends approval of the Cardiac Catheterization Equipment section for the 2011 N.C. SMFP.

Lithotripsy Section

The Council received no petitions or comments over the summer regarding the Lithotripsy section of the 2011 N.C. SMFP. The Committee noted that there is no need determination for lithotripters anywhere in the state, and recommends approval of the Lithotripsy section for the 2011 N.C. SMFP.

Gamma Knife Section

The Council received no petitions or comments over the summer regarding the Gamma Knife section of the 2011 N.C. SMFP. The Committee noted that there is no need determination for a Gamma Knife anywhere in the state, and recommends approval of the Gamma Knife section for the 2011 N.C. SMFP.

The Committee recommends to the SHCC that Chapter 9: Technology and Equipment be adopted and that, apart from data updates, no substantive changes will be reflected in the 2011 N.C. SMFP. In addition, the Committee authorized staff to make updates and corrections to the data and tables as indicated.