

# **Technology and Equipment Committee Report**

## **Recommendations to the North Carolina State Health Coordinating Council**

### **September 28, 2011**

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On September 7, 2011, the Technology and Equipment Committee met to consider petitions and comments in response to the NC Proposed 2012 North Carolina State Medical Facilities Plan (SMFP).

#### **Chapter 9: Technology and Equipment**

##### **Cardiac Catheterization Equipment Section**

The NC Proposed 2012 SMFP showed one need determination for additional fixed unit of cardiac catheterization equipment in New Hanover County, but did not show a need determination anywhere else in the state. The NC Proposed 2012 SMFP showed no need determination for shared fixed cardiac catheterization anywhere in the state.

##### *Cardiac Catheterization Data:*

During the summer, two revisions were made to the cardiac catheterization equipment inventory table in New Hanover County, but neither revision eliminated the need for one additional unit of fixed cardiac catheterization equipment in the county.

Two petitions for adjusted need determinations were received during the public comment period regarding cardiac catheterization equipment.

- New Hanover Regional Medical Center (NHRMC) requests the removal of the need determination in New Hanover County for one additional unit of fixed cardiac catheterization equipment. No comments were received on the petition. The Agency Report recommends approval of the NHRMC petition request.
  
- Iredell Health System (IHS) requests an adjusted need determination for shared fixed cardiac catheterization equipment for Iredell County in a program that provides both diagnostic and therapeutic cardiac catheterization equipment. Specifically, the petition states that the certificate of need applicant for the shared fixed cardiac catheterization equipment must use existing equipment and show evidence that therapeutic catheterization procedures have been performed for the past 12 months. Fifty-six comments were received on the petition. The Agency Report recommends denial of the IHS petition request.

*New Hanover Regional Medical Center's Petition:* Research from the Health Care Advisory Board shows a projected decline over the next 5 to 10 years in numbers of diagnostic cardiac catheterization procedures to be performed nationwide. Further, the numbers of total diagnostic cardiac catheterization procedures and total diagnostic equivalent procedures declined in the state between 2005 and 2010. Also, one additional fixed cardiac catheterization laboratory is under development at NHRMC and will provide additional capacity when operational. The Committee recommends the petition request be approved, reducing the projected need in New Hanover County to zero.

*Iredell Health System's Petition:* The petitioner bases its request for an additional shared fixed cardiac catheterization laboratory on cardiac catheterization procedures performed at Iredell Memorial Hospital after the standard reporting period (FY 2010) specified in the SMFP. Based on data for the FY 2010 reporting period, there is a surplus of two fixed cardiac catheterization laboratories in Iredell County, and Iredell Memorial Hospital showed a need for only one fixed unit, which the hospital currently owns and operates. Committee members decided the current cardiac catheterization equipment capacity is sufficient for Iredell County and sufficiently unique circumstances do not exist to warrant an adjusted need determination for one additional unit of shared fixed cardiac catheterization equipment. Therefore, the Committee recommended denial of the petition.

After approval of the NHRMC petition and denial of the IHS petition, the Committee noted there are no need determinations for cardiac catheterization equipment anywhere in the state. The Committee recommends approval of the Cardiac Catheterization Equipment Section for the NC 2012 SMFP.

### **Linear Accelerator Section**

#### *Linear Accelerator Data:*

One correction was made to the linear accelerator equipment inventory in the SMFP, which added one additional linear accelerator in Pitt County.

The Committee received no petitions or comments over the summer regarding the Linear Accelerator section of the SMFP. The Committee reviewed updated linear accelerator tables and noted there are no need determinations for linear accelerators anywhere in the state. The Committee recommends approval of the linear accelerator section for the NC 2012 SMFP.

### **Magnetic Resonance Imaging (MRI) Section**

#### *MRI Scanner Data:*

Several minor corrections were made to the MRI scanner inventory tables, however, the changes did not add any MRI scanners to the inventory, increase the total number of MRI scans performed in FY 2010, or result in a projected need determination anywhere in the state.

The Committee received no petitions or comments over the summer on the MRI Scanner section of the SMFP. The Committee reviewed updated MRI scanner tables, and noted there are no need determinations for fixed or mobile MRI scanners anywhere in the state. The Committee recommends approval of the MRI section for the NC 2012 SMFP.

### **Positron Emission Tomography (PET) Scanners Section**

The Committee received no petitions or comments over the summer regarding the PET Scanner section of the SMFP. The Committee reviewed tables for PET scanners, and noted there is no need determination for fixed or mobile PET scanners anywhere in the state. The Committee recommends approval of the PET section for the NC 2012 SMFP.

### **Lithotripsy Section**

The Committee received no petitions or comments over the summer regarding the Lithotripsy section of the NC 2012 SMFP. The Committee noted there is no need determination for lithotripters anywhere in the state, and recommends approval of the Lithotripsy section for the NC 2012 SMFP.

### **Gamma Knife Section**

The Committee received no petitions or comments over the summer regarding the Gamma Knife section of the SMFP. The Committee noted there is no need determination for Gamma Knife

equipment anywhere in the state, and recommends approval of the Gamma Knife section for the NC 2012 SMFP.

The Committee recommends to the State Health Coordinating Council that Chapter 9: Technology and Equipment be adopted and that, apart from data updates discussed and approved, no substantive changes will be recommended for the NC 2012 SMFP.

**Other Action:**

In addition, the Committee authorized staff to continue to make updates and corrections to the data and tables until the NC 2012 SMFP is finalized.