
Technology and Equipment Committee

Recommendations to the North Carolina State Health Coordinating Council
October 3, 2018

The Technology and Equipment Committee met once after the August Council meeting, on September 12.

Following is an overview of the Committee's recommendations for Technology and Equipment, Chapter 9, of the 2019 State Medical Facilities Plan. Inventories for all sections of Chapter 9 have been updated to reflect any changes, and data tables include placeholders where applicable. All inventories and need determinations are subject to change.

Lithotripsy Section

The Agency received no petitions or comments regarding the lithotripsy section of Chapter 9. Application of the methodology based on data and information currently available results no need anywhere in the state for additional lithotripsy services.

Gamma Knife Section

Since the Proposed 2019 SMFP, there have been no changes in the need projections for gamma knife. There was no need for gamma knives anywhere in the state. The Committee received no petitions or comments over the summer regarding the gamma knife section of Chapter 9.

Linear Accelerator Section

The Agency received one petition for this section.

Petition: Southeastern Regional Medical Center

- **Request:** Southeastern Regional Medical Center is requesting an adjusted need determination for an additional linear accelerator (LINAC) in Service Area 18, to be designated for Robeson County. The Agency received 15 letters of support.
- **Committee Recommendation:** The Committee discussed the Petition and Agency Report, which recommended approval of the request. Robeson County is in a multi-county service area, but meets the population criterion of 120,000 residents to qualify as a separate service area. Southeastern substantially exceeds the need determination threshold for LINAC utilization. If Robeson County were a single county service area, it would have a need in the 2019 SMFP. The Committee also acknowledged that a single LINAC in Robeson County presents challenges to meeting the needs of its patients. The Committee recommends to the SHCC that the request be approved and the 2019 SMFP show an adjusted need determination for one LINAC in Service Area 18, to be developed in Robeson County.

Data Updates

Application of the methodology based on data currently available results in no draft need determinations for LINAC services.

Positron Emission Tomography (PET) Scanners Section

The Agency received no petitions and no comments regarding the positron emission tomography section of Chapter 9.

Data Updates

Duke Raleigh Hospital received a CON pursuant to a need determination in the 2017 SMFP; this CON removed the placeholder in Table 9L. Application of the methodology based on data and information currently available results in a draft need determination for fixed PET scanner in HSA IV in the 2019 SMFP.

Magnetic Resonance Imaging (MRI) Section

The Agency received two petitions for this section.

Petition: Sentara Albemarle Medical Center

- **Request:** Sentara Albemarle Medical Center requested an adjusted need determination to remove the need for one fixed MRI scanner in the Pasquotank/Camden/Currituck/Perquimans Service Area. The Agency received no comments related to this petition.
- **Committee Recommendation:** The Committee discussed the Petition and Agency Report, which recommended approval of the request. Although the hospital surpassed the need threshold by 346 weighted scans, the Committee concurred with the Agency's Report that the growth of MRI procedures and migration of patients is not sufficient to support an additional scanner. Furthermore, in 2006, Sentara obtained a CON for a second scanner, but ultimately relinquished the CON in 2012. The Committee recommends to the SHCC that the Petition be approved and the need for one MRI scanner in the Pasquotank/Camden/Currituck/Perquimans service area be removed.

Petition: Davie Medical Center

- **Request:** Davie Medical Center requested removal of the need determination for one fixed MRI scanner in the Davie County Service Area. The Agency received no comments related to this petition.
- **Committee Recommendation:** The Committee discussed the Petition and Agency Report, which recommended approval of the Petition request. The petition noted that Davie Medical Center has applied for a CON for one MRI under Policy TE-3. The Committee concurred with the Agency recommendation that if Davie Medical Center's CON application is approved before the 2019 SMFP is submitted to the Governor, the petition to adjust remove the need determination for an additional fixed MRI

scanner is also approved. If the CON application is not approved, then the 2019 SMFP will show a need determination for one MRI in Davie County.

Data Updates

Updates to data did not change the need determinations reported in the Proposed 2019 SMFP. Application of the methodology based on data and information current available results in draft need determinations for five MRI scanners: one MRI scanner each in Davie, Forsyth, Mecklenburg, and Wake Counties, and one scanner in the Pasquotank/Camden/Currituck/Perquimans service area.

Cardiac Catheterization Equipment Section

The Committee received no petitions and no comments regarding cardiac catheterization equipment.

Data Updates

The *Proposed 2019 SMFP* showed a placeholder for one unit of fixed cardiac catheterization equipment in the Buncombe/Graham/Madison/Yancey Service Area based on a 2018 SMFP need determination. The 2018 need determination was removed from Table 9P because no CON applications were received in response to this need. However, the utilization for this service area in the current reporting year shows a new need for 1 unit of cardiac catheterization equipment in the Buncombe/Graham/Madison/Yancey Service Area in the 2019 SMFP. There is no need for fixed cardiac catheterization equipment anywhere else in the state and no need for shared fixed equipment.

Recommendations Related to Entire Chapter

The Committee recommends to the State Health Coordinating Council approval of Chapter 9: Technology and Equipment, with the understanding that staff is authorized to continue making necessary updates to the narratives, tables, and need determinations as indicated.