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North Carolina Hospital Association

July 31, 2009

MEMORANDUM

DFS Health Planning
 RECEIVED

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Medical Facilities
 PLANNING SECTION

TO: Carol G. Potter, Planner
 Medical Facilities Planning Section
 NC Division of Health Service Regulation
 701 Barbour Drive
 Raleigh, NC 27603

FROM: Mike Vicario, Vice President of Regulatory Affairs *mv*
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SUBJECT: State Health Coordinating Council/Mobile MRI Need Determination

The Proposed 2010 State Medical Facilities Plan requests comment on whether the statement, "There is no need for any additional mobile MRI scanners anywhere in the state" should be adopted into the Plan. NCHA supports inclusion of that statement on need for mobile MRI for the 2010 State Medical Facilities Planning year.

Nearly every county in NC has access to at least one MRI site, and nearly every hospital in the state has a fixed MRI unit. Even most of the state's smaller counties have numerous MRI sites. Data from recent SMFPs indicate that the total number of scans across NC and the number of scans per "fixed equivalent magnet" have dropped during the past year. As patient access to MRI services across the state is available, the drop in the number of scans per magnet should be considered, and NCHA supports the proposed statement of "no need for any additional mobile MRI scanners anywhere in the state."

From SMFP Table 90 under "fixed MRI magnet" and "fixed equivalent magnet" columns

SMFP	Total MRI Scans	Fixed Magnets	Equivalent Magnets	Scans/Equiv magnet
2008	786,694	199	251.7	3125.5
2009	821,829	212	256.3	3206.5
P-2010	811,370	222	258.3	3140.7

Appendix A: North Carolina Counties by Health Service Areas

