

# medwest



Carolina HealthCare

MedWest- Harris  
68 Hospital Road  
Sylva, NC 28779

MedWest- Haywood  
262 Leroy George Drive  
Clyde, NC 28721

MedWest- Swain  
45 Plateau Street  
Bryson City, NC 28713

March 28, 2011

DFS Health PLANNING  
RECEIVED

MAR 23 2011

Medical Facilities  
PLANNING SECTION

Dr. Christopher G. Ulrich, Chair  
Technology and Equipment Committee  
c/o Medical Facilities Planning Section  
Division of Health Service Regulation  
2714 Mail Service Center  
Raleigh, North Carolina 27699-2714

As Chief Financial Officer of Medwest Health System, respectfully request that a new methodology be developed to determine the need for additional mobile PET scanners in the Western Region of North Carolina.

The Medical Facilities Planning Section determined no need for an additional mobile scanner in Western North Carolina for 2011. Haywood and Jackson Counties are a rural area, and patients in both are underserved and often lack access to PET services. There is currently only one mobile PET scanner for 18 hospitals in Western North Carolina and it is operating at capacity. The current PET scanner in the Medwest Health System, located at Medwest Harris, receives mobile PET services only one day every other week. Patients needing PET scans quickly have to travel at great distances to attain.

I believe that the proposed mobile PET methodology warrants support in order to provide fair, reliable processes for determining statewide need for additional mobile PET scanners.

Respectfully,

W. Gene Winters  
Chief Financial Officer  
Medwest Health System

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