



March 21, 2013

Jerry Parks  
Chairman, State Health Coordinating Council  
c/o Dept. of Health Service Regulation  
Medical Facilities Planning Section  
2714 Mail Services Center  
Raleigh, NC 27699-2714

Dear Mr. Parks:

I am writing to you today to express my support for the Novant/Medquest petition regarding a change to the methodology for Mobile PET scanners. Currently, the patients of Randolph County have very limited access to Mobile PET scanning locally. The service is available one morning every other week, and the mobile service must end at a set time in order to travel to another site. In order to allow our patients access to this service in their community, there have been occasions when we have had to ask patients to come in for their scan at 4:30am in order to accommodate the travel schedule of our mobile service. In addition, we have inquired about expanding our service coverage to include one morning every week. Due to capacity constraints, our mobile provider cannot honor this request. We don't want to delay important cancer staging and treatment planning for our patients, so we refer these patients to neighboring counties for their PET scan. This is often a hardship for a patient facing a cancer diagnosis and we would very much like to offer continuity of care for our patients.

In addition, when initially trying to establish a mobile PET service, our service was delayed many months until a fixed provider site opened because there was no available capacity on the Western North Carolina mobile PET scanner. As a county that borders the Eastern Planning Region for mobile PET, we were unable to take advantage of capacity on the Eastern Region machine because of the state methodology planning regions. I hope you will consider this issue as the committee explores changes to the methodology.

The capacity calculation for Mobile PET states that Randolph Hospital is at 4% capacity. Our case volume as a percentage of total capacity of one mobile PET scanner does not accurately describe true capacity. (107/2600) I would urge the State Health Coordinating Council to consider case volume compared to the number of appointment times available when the unit is onsite at Randolph Cancer Center.

In conclusion, Randolph Hospital supports this methodology change petition and looks forward to expanded capacity for mobile PET services in North Carolina.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Steven E. Eblin". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name being the most prominent.

Steven E. Eblin, Chief Executive Officer