

**Petition to the State Health Coordinating Council  
Regarding Technology and Equipment Policy / Methodology for  
Fixed Magnetic Resonance Imaging Equipment for  
2016 State Medical Facilities Plan**

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<b>Petitioner:</b>		<b>Contact:</b>	
<b>Name:</b>	J. Arthur Doshier Memorial Hospital	<b>Name:</b>	Dan Porter, CFO
<b>Address:</b>	924 North Howe Street Southport, North Carolina 28461	<b>E-mail:</b>	danporter@doshier.org
		<b>Phone:</b>	910-457-3912

**KEY FACTS:**

- Doshier Hospital is the **only hospital** in the state with a freestanding MRI that it does not own.
- The MRI is located **four miles** away from the hospital.
- The equipment is busy and provided **1,246 fixed equivalent scans** in 2014.
- Owning the MRI and locating it at the hospital would provide **much more cost effective** operations and it would serve Emergency and Inpatients.
- Because of the structure of the current methodology for MRI, Brunswick County would need to **almost double** the number of MRI scans to show enough need for Doshier to apply to replace its scanner; and Doshier would have to show that it could provide 4,118 scans in a CON application filed against that need.
- A new Policy TE-2 could address the **unique problems** of small hospitals like Doshier and preserve orderly growth of MRI capacity in the state.

## STATEMENT OF REQUESTED ADJUSTMENT

### PREFERRED ADJUSTMENT: NEW POLICY TE-2

J. Arthur Doshier Memorial Hospital (Doshier), requests the following Policy Adjustment and Change to Methodology in the *2016 State Medical Facilities Plan (SMFP)* regarding Magnetic Resonance Imaging equipment (MRI).

- Add a new policy, **Policy TE-2**, which should read as follows:

*"A certificate of need may be issued to a hospital which is licensed under GS 131E, Article 5, has only one MRI scanner, and offers MRI services on a full-time basis pursuant to a service agreement with an MRI provider, without regard to the MRI need shown in Chapter 9: Magnetic Resonance Imaging, if:*

- 1. The hospital replaces the existing contracted service agreement with a fixed MRI scanner under the hospital's ownership and control.*
- 2. The existing service agreement can and will terminate prior to the date the new fixed MRI begins service.*
- 3. The acquisition and operation of the facility's own MRI scanner will allow the hospital to reduce its cost of providing the MRI service.*

- *The threshold tier of adjusted MRI scans for such a replacement shall equal that of a service area with no MRI scanners*
- With addition of **Policy TE-2**, remove from *SMFP* Chapter 9, "Magnetic Resonance Imaging," "Basic Assumptions of the Methodology, 4" (Assumption 4), thus eliminating redundancies.