

July 30, 2019

Lyndon K. Jordan, M.D.
Chair, Technology and Equipment Committee

And

Christopher Ullrich, M.D.
Chair, State Health Coordinating Council

North Carolina Division of Health Service Regulation
Healthcare Planning and Certificate of Need Section
2704 Mail Service Center
Raleigh, NC 27699-2704

RE: Southeastern Health's Petition for an Adjusted Need Determination for One Additional Dedicated Fixed PET Scanner in HSA V Designated for Robeson County

Dear Drs. Jordan and Ullrich:

As a CV Surgeon practicing in the area, I am aware of Southeastern Health's expertise and experience in cardiology services, including interventional cardiac catheterizations and open heart surgery, which are provided in partnership with Duke Health. Today, Robeson County is the only county in the state with an open heart surgery program but no fixed PET scanner. Given the limited availability of the mobile PET scanner one half-day per week, I am unable to refer patients for cardiac PET as the scanner cannot accommodate any additional volume for cardiac patients. I strongly believe that patient care would be enhanced with the availability of a fixed PET scanner in the area, particularly for cardiac scans that are not currently performed in Robeson County. For that reason, I fully support Southeastern Health's petition for an adjusted need determination for one additional dedicated fixed PET scanner.

There are many unique demographic and socioeconomic factors in Robeson County that contribute to the need for fixed PET capacity. Robeson County has the highest percentage (nearly 70 percent) of minority residents in the state and nearly the lowest per capita income in the state, both of which contribute to a higher presence of health risk factors and higher mortality rates for heart disease. These demographic and socioeconomic factors also mean that many patients in Robeson County do not have the financial or transportation means to seek healthcare outside the county. As the leading provider of healthcare services in Robeson County, it is imperative that Southeastern Health have sufficient capacity to provide services, including PET services, to all residents of the county.

Given these facts, I strongly encourage you to approve Southeastern Health's special need adjustment petition.

If you have any additional questions, please feel free to contact me.

Sincerely,



Charles Anene, MD

July 30, 2019

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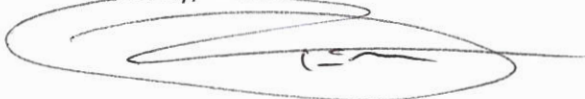
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Sincerely,



Terry Lowry, MD

July 30, 2019

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Dear Drs. Jordan and Ullrich:

As an oncologist practicing in the area, I am aware of Southeastern Health's strong record of providing high quality oncology services, including medical, surgical and radiation treatment of cancer. I regularly refer my patients in need of these services to Southeastern Health, and I fully support Southeastern Health's petition for an adjusted need determination for one additional dedicated fixed PET scanner in HSA V. If approved for its second linear accelerator in a few weeks, Southeastern Health will be one of only two hospitals in the state with two or more linear accelerators but no fixed PET scanner in the county. A growing number of cancer patients are diagnosed and treated at Southeastern Health; based on the number that need a PET scan, if a fixed PET scanner were available locally, it is reasonable to assume that it would perform well over 1,000 scans today, just based on cancer patients alone.

As discussed in the petition, the majority of patients leaving Robeson County for PET services travel more than 120 miles—one way—for care. There are many unique demographic and socioeconomic factors in Robeson County that contribute to the need for a fixed PET scanner. Robeson County has the highest percentage (nearly 70 percent) of minority residents in the state and nearly the lowest per capita income in the state, both of which contribute to a higher presence of health risk factors and higher cancer incidence and mortality rates. These demographic and socioeconomic factors also mean that many patients in Robeson County do not have the financial or transportation means to seek healthcare outside the county. As the leading provider of healthcare services in Robeson County, it is imperative that Southeastern Health have sufficient capacity to provide services, including PET services, to all residents of the county.

Given these facts, I strongly encourage you to approve Southeastern Health's special need adjustment petition.

If you have any additional questions, please feel free to contact me.

Sincerely,



Maleka Ahmed, M.D.

Medical Oncology, Hematology and Palliative Care

July 30, 2019

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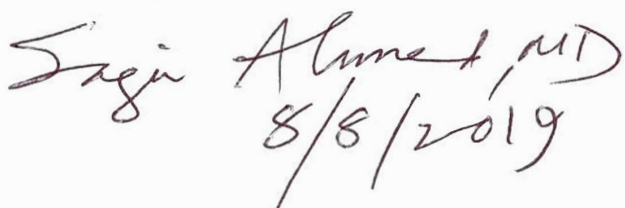
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Given these facts, I strongly encourage you to approve Southeastern Health's special need adjustment petition.

If you have any additional questions, please feel free to contact me.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in dark ink that reads "Sagir Ahmed, MD" followed by the date "8/8/2019". The signature is written in a cursive, slightly slanted style.

Sagir Ahmed, MD



Lyndon K. Jordan, M.D.

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Dear Drs. Jordan and Ullrich:

Positron Emission Tomography, more commonly known as PET scanning, is critically important to an accurate assessment of extent disease and response to treatment for cancer patients. Yet, PET scanning is only intermittently available for cancer patients in Robeson county today. The lack of a permanent, fixed PET scanner can result in delay of care or compromises in care for patients in this area. As an oncologist who has practiced in Robeson county for several decades, I am aware of Southeastern Health's strong record of providing high quality oncology services, including medical, surgical and radiation treatment of cancer. I regularly refer my patients in need of these services to Southeastern Health, and in order to meet the needs of oncology patients in this area, I fully and enthusiastically support Southeastern Health's petition for an adjusted need determination for one additional dedicated fixed PET scanner in HSA V. If approved for its second linear accelerator, Southeastern Health will be one of only two hospitals in the state with two or more linear accelerators but no fixed PET scanner in the county. A growing number of cancer patients are diagnosed and treated at Southeastern Health; based on the need in cancer patients alone, a fixed PET scanner available locally, would reasonably be expected to perform well over 1,000 scans per year.

As discussed in the petition, the majority of patients leaving Robeson County for PET services travel more than 120 miles—one way—for care. There are many unique demographic and socioeconomic factors in Robeson County that contribute to the need for a fixed PET scanner. Robeson County has the highest percentage (nearly 70 percent) of minority residents in the state and nearly the lowest per capita income in the state, both of which contribute to a higher presence of health risk factors and higher cancer incidence and mortality rates. These demographic and socioeconomic factors also mean that many patients in Robeson County do not have the financial or transportation means to seek healthcare outside the county. As the leading provider of healthcare services in Robeson County, it is imperative that Southeastern Health have sufficient capacity to provide services, including PET services, to all residents of the county.

Given these facts, I strongly encourage you to approve Southeastern Health's special need adjustment petition. If you have any additional questions, please feel free to contact me.

Sincerely yours,

Linda Sutton, MD

Medical Oncology

Gibson Cancer Center, Southeastern Health

Associate Professor of Medicine, Duke University

BOX DUMC 3395, Durham NC 12345 TEL 919.419.5005
LOC 3100 Tower Blvd., Suite 600 FAX 919.493.3234
Durham, NC 27707



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Sincerely,

Melanie B. Thomas
Clinical Associate
DUKE CANCER NETWORK
Duke Health

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Chris Walters, MD