
Technology and Equipment Committee

Recommendations to the North Carolina State Health Coordinating Council
October 2, 2019

The Technology and Equipment Committee met once after the August Council meeting, on September 11, 2019.

Following is an overview of the Committee's recommendations for Technology and Equipment, Chapter 17, of the 2020 State Medical Facilities Plan. Inventories for all sections of Chapter 17 have been updated to reflect any changes, and data tables include placeholders where applicable. All inventories and need determinations are subject to change.

Cardiac Catheterization Equipment Section

The Committee received one petition regarding cardiac catheterization equipment.

Petition: Pardee UNC Health petitioned for an adjusted need determination for one unit of cardiac catheterization equipment in Henderson County. One comment was received in support of the petition.

Committee Recommendation: The Committee discussed the Petition and Agency Report, which recommended approval of the petition. Given the unique history and ownership status of the existing equipment, the Agency finds it appropriate to use Methodology 2 to determine need for a unit of shared fixed equipment. Using this criterion, the procedural volume requirement has been met in Henderson County. The committee recommends to the SHCC approval of the Pardee UNC Health Petition for an adjusted need determination for one additional unit of shared fixed cardiac catheterization equipment to be developed in Henderson County in the 2020 SMFP.

Data Updates

CMS has recently approved coverage of cardiac catheterization procedures in ambulatory surgical facilities. Assumption 3 in Chapter 17 states that cardiac catheterization equipment can only be developed at hospitals. The committee will need to address this new development in the Spring of 2020.

Since the Proposed 2020 SMFP, there were updates to data in the tables. Application of the methodology based on data and information currently available results in no draft need determinations.

Gamma Knife Section

The Committee received one petition regarding gamma knife equipment.

Petition: Atrium Health petitioned for an adjusted need determination for a gamma knife in the western portion of the state (consisting of HSAs I, II, and III). One comment was received in opposition to the petition.

Committee Recommendation: The Committee discussed the Petition and Agency Report, which recommended approval of the request. The SMFP does not have a standard methodology for need determinations for gamma knife equipment. The committee recommends to the SHCC approval of the Atrium Health petition for an adjusted need determination of one gamma knife in HSA III in the 2020 SMFP.

Data Updates

Since the Proposed 2020 SMFP, there have been no changes in the received data.

Linear Accelerator Section

The Agency received no petitions or comments regarding the LINAC section of Chapter 17.

Data Updates

Southeastern Regional Medical Center was awarded a CON for a LINAC in Robeson County. This information will be added to the data tables. Application of the methodology based on data currently available results in no draft need determinations for LINAC services.

Lithotripsy Section

The Agency received no petitions or comments regarding the lithotripsy section of Chapter 17.

Data Updates

There are no significant updates to data tables in this section. Application of the methodology based on data and information currently available results no need anywhere in the state for additional lithotripsy services.

Magnetic Resonance Imaging (MRI) Section

The Committee received two petitions MRI scanners.

Petition: Sentara Albemarle Medical Center requested an adjusted need determination to remove the need for one fixed MRI scanner in the Pasquotank/Camden/Currituck/Perquimans Service Area. The Agency received no comments related to this petition.

Committee Recommendation: The Committee discussed the Petition and Agency Report, which recommended approval of the request. The Petitioner has shown that there is not significant enough growth in the area to support the requirements of an additional fixed MRI unit based on the methodology. The Committee recommends to the SHCC approval of the Sentara Albemarle Medical Center petition for the removal of the need determination for an additional fixed MRI unit in the Pasquotank/Camden/Currituck/Perquimans service area be removed in the 2020 SMFP.

Petition: Raleigh Radiology petitioned for one MRI scanner in the Wake County service area. Three comments were received in opposition to the petition. One comment was received in favor of the petition along with 86 letters of support.

- **Committee Recommendation:** The Committee discussed the Petition and Agency Report, which recommended denial of the Petitioner's request. There has been a need determination for a fixed MRI scanner in Wake County in the 2016 and 2019 SMFP. The Petitioner does not claim that Wake County needs an MRI scanner in addition to the existing one in the 2019 SMFP. The Committee recommends to the SHCC denial of the Raleigh Radiology petition for an additional unit of fixed MRI equipment for the Wake County service area in the final 2020 SMFP.

Data Updates

Receiving new data for Guilford County created a need determination that was not in the Proposed 2019 SMFP. Application of the methodology based on data and information current available results in draft need determinations for five MRI

scanners: one MRI scanner each in Alamance, Durham/Caswell, Guilford, Mecklenburg and Pasquotank/Camden/Currituck/Perquimans service areas.

Positron Emission Tomography (PET) Scanners Section

The Committee received one petition regarding PET scanner.

Petition: Southeastern Health petitioned for an adjusted need determination for one additional dedicated fixed PET scanner in HSA V designated for Robeson County. One comment was received in favor of the petition along with seven letters of support.

Committee Recommendation: The Committee discussed the Petition and Agency Report, which recommended approval of the Petitioner's request. HSA V and Robeson County have unique challenges that their patients face when seeking PET services. The need for PET services is growing, but the county has a scanner available for only one-half day per week. This limited availability often requires patients to travel long distances for PET services. The Committee recommends to the SHCC approval of the Southeastern Health petition for an adjusted need determination for a fixed dedicated PET scanner in HSA V to be located in Robeson County in the final 2020 SMFP.

Data Updates

There are no significant updates to data tables in this section. Application of the methodology based on data and information currently available results no need anywhere in the state for additional PET scanners.

Recommendations Related to Entire Chapter

The Committee recommends to the State Health Coordinating Council approval of Chapter 17: Technology and Equipment, with the understanding that staff is authorized to continue making necessary updates to the narratives, tables, and need determinations as indicated.