

Eric Janis, MD, FACC statement for SHCC Committee  
March 5, 2014

Dear SHCC members,

Thank you for the opportunity to address this committee. I am a Cardiologist with NCHV who works primarily at Johnston Health, and had the pleasure of serving on this committee for several years. I humbly request that this committee address the issue which has led Johnston Health to submit a petition to create language in the SMFP to permit hospitals with fixed cardiac cath equipment to perform both diagnostic and therapeutic procedures.

While this petition asks for changes in the 2015 SMFP, I personally feel that these changes should be applied immediately, not a year down the road. It has already been 18 months since Johnston Health's original petition, and while some progress has been made, we are now at a standstill.

My plea to this committee is to recognize the hazard of failing to address this issue now. The CON process derives its entire legitimacy from the idea that the process is fair, that the CON process is not biased, and is dedicated to certain core values including equity, quality, safety, and value. Across the state, hospitals without on-site surgery are doing PCI for no reason other than when they acquired their cath lab. Not for reasons of safety, quality, or value, but merely when they bought a cath lab. And as a result, patients are being denied the opportunity to have optimal and possibly life saving care at hospitals near to their homes, with their personal physicians, and without being forced to travel to an unfamiliar location with unfamiliar doctors and staff.

I have been and continue to be a strong supporter of the CON process. But I worry that when this process is not, or even perceived to be, less than equitable, it undermines the legitimacy of the CON process.

Thank you for your consideration, and I look forward to your timely action on this petition.