

COMMENT IN SUPPORT OF PETITION BY  
PRESBYTERIAN MEDICAL CARE CORPORATION d/b/a  
NOVANT HEALTH MATTHEWS MEDICAL CENTER TO INCLUDE  
ONE UNIT OF CARDIAC CATHETERIZATION EQUIPMENT  
IN MECKLENBURG COUNTY  
IN THE 2022 SMFP

To the North Carolina State Health Coordinating Council  
DHSR.SMFP.Petitions-Comments@dhhs.nc.gov

Dear Sir or Madam:

I am writing to express my support for the petition submitted by Presbyterian Medical Care Corporation d/b/a Novant Health Matthews Medical Center (“Novant Health Matthews”) to include a need determination in the 2022 State Medical Facilities Plan (“SMFP”) for one unit of fixed cardiac catheterization equipment (“cardiac catheterization”) in Mecklenburg County.

I am a physician practicing at Blakeney Family Physicians in Charlotte, Mecklenburg County. My specialty is Family Medicine. I have many patients who choose to receive their acute care services at Novant Health Matthews, including their cardiac care services. I frequently refer my patients for cardiac care to Novant Health Matthews’ physicians. Those patients often present with symptoms of cardiac distress that requires further diagnostic and interventional treatment utilizing cardiac catheterization equipment.

Matthews is a growing area of Mecklenburg County, particularly in the age 65 and older population. This population represents a large portion of my patients. The demand for healthcare services at Novant Health Matthews has increased greatly over the years, particularly when it comes to cardiac catheterization services. It is my understanding that Novant Health Matthews has seen significant growth in cardiac catheterization services and is operating well above the State-defined capacity of its one existing unit of equipment. This includes patients experiencing chest pain or ST-Elevation Myocardial Infarction (“STEMI”) heart attack that requires immediate intervention. Minutes can mean the difference between life and death for these patients and therefore it is critical to their survival. Novant Health Matthews is the first STEMI program in Mecklenburg County in a facility without on-site cardiovascular surgery.

In my personal experience through interacting with my patients, I have learned that often patients who are scheduled for diagnostic cardiac catheterization procedures at Novant Health Matthews have their procedures delayed due to urgent cases arriving where a patient is experiencing an acute cardiac episode requiring immediate intervention. This situation occurs because there is only one available unit of cardiac catheterization equipment at Novant Health Matthews to treat scheduled and emergent patients. This delay, often until the following day, causes unnecessary stress to the patient and their family.

It is clear that Novant Health Matthews needs an additional unit of cardiac catheterization equipment to support the demand of its patients for these services, especially those with emergent cardiac needs such as chest pains and STEMI. Thank you for your consideration of these comments in

support of a need determination to bring an additional unit of cardiac catheterization equipment to Mecklenburg County.

Benjamin J. Missick, MD