

March 12, 2024

Sandra Greene, PhD Chair
State Health Coordinating Council
Micheala Mitchell, Chief
Andrea Emmanuel, PhD, Acting Assistant Chief
Healthcare Planning Section
Division of Health Service Regulation
2714 Mail Service Center
Raleigh, North Carolina 27699-2714
E-Mail: DHSR.SMFP.Petitions-Comments@dhhs.nc.gov

RE: Carteret Health Care Petitions for PET/CT Simulator / Scanner Methodology or Policy Change

Dear Dr. Greene and Dr. Emmanuel,

My name is Marcy Ellis. I am writing to support the concepts in the petitions submitted by Carteret Health Care for a policy or methodology change in the *2025 State Medical Facilities Plan* to let midsize cancer centers obtain a certificate of need for a PET scanner.

As a former cancer patient from Carteret County and long-time volunteer in the cancer center (now retired), I heavily depend on Carteret Health, an ACR accredited Community Cancer Center to provide treatment for those in need in our community and surrounding areas. This midsize cancer center is constantly busy, and I appreciate what Carteret Health does to bring modern technology to a coastal community that has lots of transportation issues. Getting a mobile PET scanner was an improvement, but Sunday only and even then not offering scans for brain, neurology, breast, or prostate cancers limits the value of the mobile unit.

I am excited to hear about equipment that would make it affordable for a midsize hospital to offer a full range of PET scans every day. At the same time, I am dismayed to learn that the Plan methodology will not provide a path for hospitals like Carteret to acquire such equipment. The methodology provides a path for “major” cancer centers to get the technology. But the definition of “major” sets the level of activity on the two linear accelerators too high for even a busy cancer center like Carteret. Times and technology have changed. A single piece of equipment that can serve two purposes – supporting the linear accelerators and providing regular PET scans, should have a lower threshold. I understand that there is precedent for doing so with dual purpose cardiac catheterization equipment.

Please approve either petition from Carteret Health so that people who have cancer have a close to home alternative for getting the PET scans that are standard of care in cancer treatment. Thank you for your time and attention to this critically important issue.

Regards,



Marcy Ellis
Morehead City, NC