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STATE HEALTH PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT AGENCY

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January 13, 2020

ELECTRONICALLY FILED  
VIA EMAIL TO  
[shpaonline@shpa.alabama.gov](mailto:shpaonline@shpa.alabama.gov)

Ms. Emily T. Marsal,  
Alabama State Health Planning &  
Development Agency  
100 North Union Street, Suite 870  
Montgomery, Alabama 36104

**Re:     *Reviewability Determination Request  
Mobile Magnetic Resonance Imaging Scanner ("MRI")  
Tanner Medical Center/East Alabama  
1032 South Main Street  
Wedowee, Alabama 36278***

Dear Ms. Marsal:

On behalf of Tanner Medical Center Alabama, Inc. d/b/a Tanner Medical Center/East Alabama ("TMC/EA"), I am seeking a determination confirming that Certificate of Need ("CON") review is not required prior to the offering of mobile MRI services at TMC/EA. Under Rule 410-1-4-.01(1)(New Institutional Health Services Subject to Review), "notwithstanding any other provision of these rules to the contrary, the definition of a new institutional health service shall not include any health services provided by ...a mobile or fixed-based MRI scanner."

TMC/EA is a critical access community hospital that opened in 2018 as a replacement for Wedowee Hospital. The hospital features a 24-hour emergency department with eight exam rooms, 15 private inpatient beds, critical care support, on-site diagnostic imaging, an on-site modern laboratory, a state-of-the-art surgical suite, and other ancillary services. TMC/EA is part of the non-profit Tanner Health System, which includes TMC/EA as well as the following three hospitals that serve west Georgia/east Alabama: Tanner Medical Center/Carrollton located in Carrollton, Carroll County ("TMC/C"), Tanner Medical/Villa Rica located in Villa Rica, Carroll County ("TMC/VR"), and Higgins General Hospital located in Bremen, Haralson County ("Higgins").

Higgins is a critical access hospital authorized to offer MRI services with a GE Signa Horizon MRI unit (the "Higgins MRI Unit"). To better serve the residents of east Alabama, Tanner Health System is seeking to have the Higgins MRI Unit (a mobile unit) provide services at TMC/EA

two days per week. The addition of mobile MRI services at TMC/EA will not require any capital expenditures because the hospital has an existing mobile pad.

This determination is being sought by:

Tanner Medical Center/East Alabama

1032 South Main Street

Wedowee, Alabama 36278

Attention: Carol Crews, Senior Vice President and CFO, Tanner Health System

Email: ccrews@tanner.org

Phone: 770-812-9745

The proposed MRI unit will be located at TMC/EA and will serve Randolph and Cleburne Counties in Alabama. TMC/EA is wholly owned by Tanner Medical Center, Inc. The MRI unit will be utilized to provide inpatient and outpatient MRI scans. The approximate costs for the proposed project are as follows:

Equipment: \$0

Construction costs: \$0

Leases: \$0

Land/Building Costs: \$0

Total Capital Outlay: \$0

First year annual operating cost (for days 2 of service provided at TMC/EA, including labor, supplies, moving costs, and use of the equipment): \$155,066.

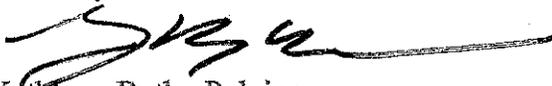
Thus, the only cost to TMC/EA will be for operations during the days that the Higgins Mobile Unit is at TMC/EA.

In these circumstances, we do not interpret the code or SHPDA rules such that the use of a mobile MRI unit by TMC/EA would trigger CON review as a "new institutional health service".

Attached is the attestation of Carol Crews, Senior Vice President and CFO for the Tanner Health System, affirming the content of this request.

Thank you for your consideration of this determination request. You may contact me at (404) 936-0406 or by email at [kpolyvino@kopolaw.biz](mailto:kpolyvino@kopolaw.biz) if you have any questions or require any additional information.

Sincerely,



Kathlynn Butler Polvino

Counsel for Tanner Medical Center/East Alabama and  
Tanner Health System

Affirmation of Requesting Party:

The undersigned, being first duly sworn, hereby make oath or affirm that he is the Senior Vice President for the Tanner Health System, including Tanner Medical Center/East Alabama, has knowledge of the facts in this request, and to the best of his information, knowledge and belief, such facts are true and correct.

Affiant: Carol Crews (Carol Crews).

SUBSCRIBED AND SWORN to before me this 13<sup>th</sup> day of January, 2020.

Courtney Morgan  
Notary Public

My commission expires: 7.5.2020

