



August 16, 2011

DFS Health Planning
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AUG 17 2011

Medical Facilities
PLANNING SECTION

Honorable William Wainwright, Chairman
State Health Coordinating Council

Christopher Ullrich, MD, Committee Chairman
Technology and Equipment Committee

Elizabeth Brown
Chief, Planning Section
Division of Health Service Regulation
2714 Mail Service Center,
Raleigh, NC 27699-2714

RE: Support for Iredell Health System Petition for Special Need for Shared Fixed Cardiac Catheterization Laboratory

Dear Chairmen Wainwright and Ullrich, and Ms. Brown,

Thank you for taking time to consider my comments on this proposed amendment to the *2012 State Medical Facilities Plan*. Iredell Memorial Hospital provides excellent services for people with heart disease. Hospital leadership has worked with physicians and community, gradually building the heart care program, assuring that staff and equipment capabilities are of the highest caliber.

Physicians and our patients can choose among a community health center offering primary care to people who cannot afford to pay, a Diabetes program that meets standards established by the American Diabetes Association, a Medicare Certified Cardiac Rehabilitation program, a cardiac catheterization program that offers both therapeutic and diagnostic procedures, monitored beds with specially trained nurses, and state of the art testing in our hospital laboratory.

Iredell Memorial nursing and technologist staff is exceptionally well trained. To assure maximum safety for our therapeutic catheterization patients, staff routinely participates in emergency procedure drills with the open heart surgery hospitals in Charlotte and Winston-Salem. Open heart staff at one of those hospitals is always on standby when Iredell Memorial conducts therapeutic procedures. Our local emergency transport staff is similarly integrated into the patient safety program.

Judy Bremnor, M.D.

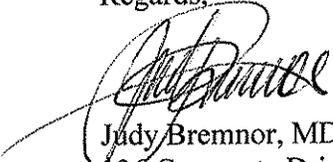
Iredell Cardiac Catheterization
August 16, 2011
Page 2

We do have a problem. Demand for service exceeds equipment capacity. The cardiac catheterization schedule has been expanded as much as patients will tolerate. We also have a solution – use the hospital’s angiography/EP lab as a “shared fixed laboratory.” When my patients are forced to wait, or go out of county, it is frustrating to know that Iredell Memorial cannot use a piece of existing comparable equipment to serve them here. The proposed solution will require no capital cost, very little increase in staff, and most importantly, no patients will be displaced.

I understand that chronically underused equipment at Davis and Lake Norman hospitals mean that the State Medical Facilities Plan calculations may never show need for more cardiac catheterization laboratories in Iredell County. That makes recognition of this special need essential.

Please approve Iredell Memorial’s request, as quickly as possible.

Regards,



Judy Bremnor, MD
436 Corporate Drive
Suite H
 Mooresville, NC 28177
704-660-9780



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Lewis J. Tondo, M.D.

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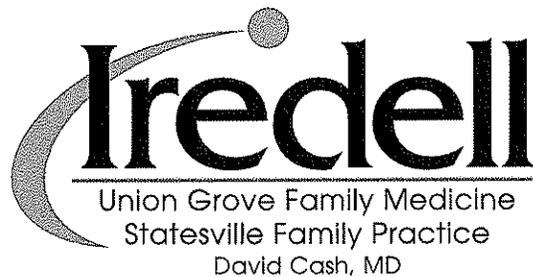
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Regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Lewis J. Tondo".

Lewis J. Tondo, MD
Troutman Village Shopping Center
510 North Main Street
Troutman, NC 28166
704-528-3721



August 16, 2011

Honorable William Wainwright, Chairman
State Health Coordinating Council

Christopher Ullrich, MD, Committee Chairman
Technology and Equipment Committee

Elizabeth Brown
Chief, Planning Section
Division of Health Service Regulation
2714 Mail Service Center,
Raleigh, NC 27699-2714

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RE: Support for Iredell Health System Petition for Special Need for Shared Fixed Cardiac Catheterization
Laboratory

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David Cash, M.D.

310 Davie Avenue, Statesville, NC 28677 : 704-873-3269

955 West Memorial Highway, Harmony, NC 28634 : 704-539-4882 : www.davidcashmd.com

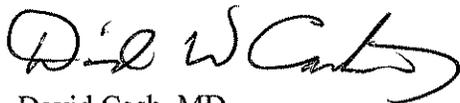
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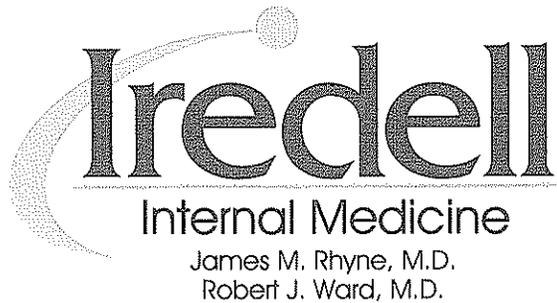
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Please approve Iredell Memorial’s request, as quickly as possible.

Regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "David W. Cash". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large, sweeping flourish at the end.

David Cash, MD
310 Davie Avenue
Statesville, NC 28677
704-873-3269

**Iredell**
Internal Medicine
James M. Rhyne, M.D.
Robert J. Ward, M.D.

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Today, the hospital offers the best cardiac care in the county. Physicians and our patients are supported by a menu of services that include: a community health center offering primary care to people who cannot afford to pay, a wellness program that includes a Diabetes program that meets standards established by the American Diabetes Association, a Medicare Certified Cardiac Rehabilitation program and a full service cardiac catheterization program, offering both therapeutic and diagnostic procedures, monitored beds with specially trained nurses, and state of the art testing in our hospital laboratory.

Inside the hospital, nursing and technologist staff are exceptionally well trained. To assure maximum safety for our therapeutic catheterization patients, staff routinely participate in emergency procedure drills with the open heart surgery hospitals in Charlotte and Winston-Salem. The open heart staff at those hospitals are always on standby alert when Iredell Memorial conducts one of these procedures. Our local emergency transport staff is similarly integrated into the patient safety program.

James M. Rhyne, M.D.

Robert J. Ward, M.D.

Iredell Internal Medicine : 704-873-5658
The Lipid Center : 704-873-5594
757 Bryant Street, Statesville, NC 28677

: Fax 704-873-5659
: Fax 704-871-9888

Letter, SHCC and Planning
August 16, 2011
Page 2

Many of my patients live in small rural communities and depend on family and friends to provide transportation, and assist with their care before, during and after a major event like a heart attack or cardiac catheterization. When asked to consider care options in larger or distant cities like Charlotte or Winston Salem, many refuse, or at best delay. This makes my job more difficult. By contrast, when they get the procedure done at Iredell Memorial, I can share data directly, both in informal conversations and, electronically as IHS moves to the electronic medical record. Communication is better and the patient wins.

Many patients in our service area have gone to Winston Salem. WFU Baptist Medical Center provides excellent care, but we can do more long term for cardiac health in our community if the full care program is in Statesville. We will keep sending the complex cases to Winston and Charlotte, as we should. However, for most cases Iredell Memorial has the equipment, staff, protocols and service excellence.

We do have a problem. Demand for Iredell Memorial's cardiac catheterization equipment exceeds normal capacity. Extended hours beyond 8:00 PM do not work for our community, because so many of our patients travel rural roads. We also have a solution – use the hospital's angiography/EP lab as a “shared fixed laboratory.” It will require no capital cost, it can use just about the same staff and support, and no patients will be displaced.

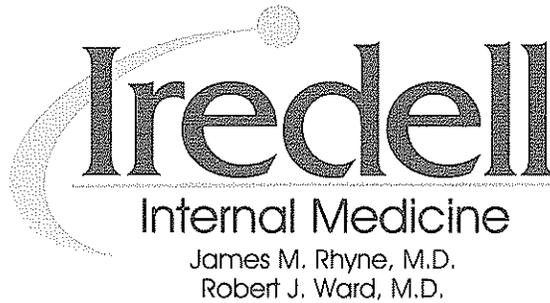
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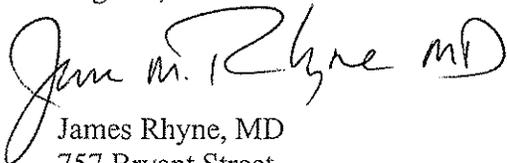
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James Rhyne, MD
757 Bryant Street
Statesville, NC 28677
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