



Dosher contact: James M. Goss, (910) 457-3900

For release: October 26, 2015

Dosher MRI approved by regulatory panel

SOUTHPORT—The State Health Coordinating Council has voted to approve a petition by Dosher Memorial Hospital for a new magnetic resonance imaging (MRI) machine in Brunswick County. If approved by the governor, Dosher expects to save hundreds of thousands of dollars over the next five years by buying its own, new MRI. Had the request been unsuccessful, the hospital would have had to continue leasing an MRI—currently at Dosher Medical Plaza—from an out-of-state, for-profit business.

Hospitals in North Carolina can't add new medical equipment unless they obtain permission from the Council, a 24-member panel appointed by the governor to coordinate and control medical services offered across the state.

MRI is an essential device physicians use to diagnose patients and determine proper treatment methods. Dosher has leased the MRI equipment for more than 20 years. The new device will be located at the hospital on North Howe Street.

Dosher is the only Critical Access Hospital—licensed for 25 beds or fewer—in North Carolina that is not owned or managed by a multi-hospital system. Without a large budget and mega-services, Dosher President & CEO Tom Siemers says leading a small, independent hospital like Dosher is all about the details such as the MRI petition.

“The new MRI will offer safer care because it will be placed on the Dosher hospital campus where it will be accessible to Emergency Department and hospital inpatients as well as diagnostic outpatients. It will be better care because the hospital will own the equipment outright,” Siemers says. “It also will be less expensive care because it costs us less to own rather than lease the MRI; we estimate a savings of \$129 on average, per patient.”

Final approval of the Dosher MRI application is expected by May 2016. The device is expected to be in operation by June, Dosher says.

-0-