



MEDICAL STAFF UPDATE

August 18, 2009

Certificate of Need Update – Novant Drops Appeal of North Healthplex 41-Bed CON; Approval Received for Brier Creek and South Healthplexes

WakeMed is pleased to report that Winston-Salem based Novant Health has dropped their previously announced appeal of the state's decision to award WakeMed 41 acute care beds at North Healthplex, for which we received CON approval in January 2009. In addition, we were recently awarded Certificate of Need (CON) approval from the Division of Health Service Regulation (DHSR) to move forward with plans for Brier Creek Healthplex and South Healthplex in Garner.

"These decisions come at a very important time for WakeMed as we continue to balance the impact of the economic downturn with our need to expand to meet the growing health care needs of our community," explains Dr. Bill Atkinson, president & CEO. "These decisions eliminate costly and time-consuming hurdles and will allow us to move forward when the economy moves further into recovery."

The 41-bed CON will allow for the expansion of North Healthplex into Wake County's fifth full-service hospital and the county's first and only women's hospital. The new beds will be added to the 20 acute care beds already approved for relocation from the Raleigh Campus, making North Healthplex a 61-bed women's hospital that will offer comprehensive preventive, diagnostic, and therapeutic care, including a full range of obstetric and gynecological services. North will continue to serve the outpatient needs of all residents through the emergency department, imaging, day surgery and laboratory services.

"While no construction timelines have been finalized for any of the above mentioned projects, we know that investing in facilities to meet the future health care needs of this community is critical to the health of this area and to the long-term fiscal health of our organization," continues Dr. Atkinson. "Even during difficult economic times such as these, Wake County continues to grow at an exponential rate. To remain successful in our ability to uphold our mission for years to come, we must continue to grow with the community."

The Brier Creek Healthplex and South Healthplex CONs were awarded for freestanding facilities to include an emergency department, laboratory and imaging services.

Stay tuned for additional information on construction plans and timelines as decisions are made.

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