

The department's recommendations to the Certificate of Need Commission (CON) for 2011 signal a departure from our past practices. In addition to the department's response to the standard question "Should this service continue to be regulated under CON?", the department will now be recommending that we simplify and streamline project delivery requirements to a more manageable number that still assures approved providers are delivering affordable, quality care of the various covered services and beds. A similar recommendation is being made to simplify and streamline projection and utilization methodologies in the various standards, where possible, to assure these methodologies are based on relevant and readily collectable data that better informs the public of the operation and impact of the regulated service. Also, the department will be recommending that medical equipment replacement requirements be simplified and that quality measures be included when replacement is considered. Attention to uniformity across the standards will be recognized and adjustments favoring appropriate uniformity will be recommended, when applicable.

These concepts will be brought to the CON Commission as each service is reviewed over the next three years. The language will be developed in collaborative manner similar to the open process used in the 2010 Nursing Home Bed exercise. Additional issues that the CON Commission may feel should be addressed can be either incorporated into the review noted above or become part of a charge levied to an unofficial workgroup or a formally charged and seated Standard Advisory Committee (SAC).

The recommendations being herewith forwarded to the Commission include three departmental charges (PET, Surgical Services, and MRT), two SACs (Hospital Beds and a potential Open Heart), and one service currently underway (Cardiac Catheterization SAC).