

PROJECT NARRATIVE

Shields Imaging of Eastern Massachusetts, LLC

Shields Imaging of Eastern MA, LLC –Significant Amendment

2. Project Description

The proposed request is filed with respect to the previously approved DoN Project #4-4886, which established mobile PET/CT services at Shields Imaging of Eastern Massachusetts, (“SIEM” or “Applicant”) located at 55 Fogg Road, South Weymouth, MA 02190. The service currently operates two days per week. The Applicant requests approval to add five days of PET/CT services at this location ("Proposed Project") for a total of seven days.

10. Amendment

10.5.a Describe the proposed change.

The Applicant currently operates a licensed clinic that provides mobile PET/CT services two days per week at its primary location, 55 Fogg Road, South Weymouth, MA 02190. The Proposed Project seeks approval to add five additional days of PET/CT services in South Weymouth, for a total of seven days of operation.

10.5.b Describe the associated cost implications to the Holder.

The Proposed Project will have no capital cost implications to the Applicant. The PET/CT service is an existing service operated by the Applicant, and the Proposed Project will not result in any additional capital costs to operate the PET/CT five additional days per week.

10.5.c Describe the associated cost Implications to the Holder's existing Patient Panel.

The Proposed Project will have no capital cost implications to the Applicant's patient panel. The Applicant currently provides PET/CT services in South Weymouth two days per week and upon DoN Approval will provide a total of seven days of service. All pricing with remain consistent with current charges.

10.5.d Provide a detailed narrative, comparing the approved project to the proposed Significant Change, and the rationale for such change.

The Applicant is Shields Imaging of Eastern Massachusetts, LLC ("SIEM"). Shields Imaging of Massachusetts, LLC was a consortium that received Determination of Need ("DoN") approval in 2002 for Project #4-4886 to acquire a mobile positron emission tomography ("PET/CT") unit to provide services at three host sites. The consortium was comprised of Shields Imaging of Eastern Massachusetts, LLC, Shields Imaging of Worcester, LLC, and Shields Imaging of Springfield, LLC. The host sites offering the mobile PET/CT services included Baystate Medical

Center, UMass Memorial Medical Center, and South Shore Hospital. Pursuant to a DoN amendment, each host site was licensed as a separate clinic, one for each member of the original consortium. The three licensed clinics that now hold the approval to provide PET/CT pursuant to Project #4-4886 are Baystate MRI and Imaging Center, LLC ("BMIC"), and UMass Memorial MRI and Imaging Center (UMMIC), and SIEM.

Pursuant to the original DoN and subsequent amendment, SIEM currently operates the mobile PET/CT service two (2) days per week at South Shore Hospital, 55 Fogg Road, South Weymouth, MA 02190. Demand for PET/CT services at South Shore Hospital has increased, resulting in the need for additional PET/CT capacity at that location. The mobile PET/CT unit currently operates at South Shore Hospital on Tuesday from 6:30 AM to 10:00 PM, and Thursday from 6:30 AM to 10:00 PM. Demand for PET/CT services at SIEM has increased, resulting in the need for additional PET/CT capacity at this location.

Historical utilization data shows an increase in individual patients and scans over the past five years. The Applicant performed 1628 scans in 2020; 1770 in 2021; 2018 scans in 2022; 2132 in 2023; and 2758 scans in 2024;. This represents an approximate 69% increase in scans between 2020 and 2024. Moreover, SIEM experienced an increase in unique patients presenting for scans. The Applicant saw 1235 unique patients in 2020, 1400 in 2021, 1568 in 2022, 1743 in 2023, and 2198 in 2024. This is an increase of 63.3% from 2020 to 2024.

The Proposed Project seeks to meet the need for increased access to PET/CT for the Applicant's patient panel. As described above, demand has significantly increased for PET/CT scans at SIEM over the past five years. This data demonstrates an increased need for access to PET/CT at the clinic, and has resulted in an average wait time of 15 days from referral to the date of the scan. The Applicant also began offering amyloid brain scans in 2024, which is expected to further increase the number of PET/CT scans performed at the clinic in 2025 and beyond. Further, SIEM will expand to offer cardiac PET perfusion scans in 2025 only increasing the number of scans performed at this clinic.

Five additional days of service will improve wait times, preventing delays in care. As PET/CT is utilized to detect and monitor high acuity and progressive diseases such as cancer, heart disease, or neurological abnormalities, timely imaging is an essential element of the patient's treatment plan. For example, the top reasons for PET/CT scans at SIEM include all solid tumors, prostate cancer, Neuroendocrine cancer, Cardiac Sarcoidosis, Alzheimer's disease, Amyloid plaque. With cancer screening standards for lung, prostate, breast and colorectal cancer alone, follow up exams post screening frequently include PET/CT to determine malignancy. Those patients are then monitored through treatment using the same technology that established the malignancy. PET/CT serves this role in a non-invasive, outpatient procedure.

Moreover, SIEM anticipates increased demand for PET/CT services as the population ages, with age being the most important risk factor for cancers¹. Based on 2024 data,

¹ See, e.g., Age and Cancer Risk, National Cancer Institute, <https://www.cancer.gov/about-cancer/causes->

approximately 76% of SIEM patient population is over the age of 64; and 96% are over the age of 50. Accordingly, due to the nature of the patient conditions primarily presenting to SIEM and the age of the existing patient panel, it is important that patients have timely and convenient access to this service.

The additional five days of service will allow the Applicant to meet the need for patients requiring PET/CT services that would otherwise have to travel to another less convenient facility or would be subject to extended wait times at SIEM. The Applicant projects the five additional days of service would result in approximately 3,104 scans in 2025; 3,414 scans in 2026; 3,756 scans in 2027 and 4,131 scans in 2028. By increasing capacity five additional days per week, The Applicant will be able to accommodate the needs of its existing patient panel, for whom PET/CT is an integral modality as part of their diagnosis and treatment planning, particularly for cancers. Accordingly, the Applicant seeks to add five days of PET/CT service at Shields Imaging of Southeastern Massachusetts, LLC to meet the demonstrated need of its patient panel for additional access.

ARTICLES OF ORGANIZATION
Shields Imaging of Eastern Massachusetts, LLC
Articles of Organization (2001):

https://corp.sec.state.ma.us/CorpWeb/CorpSearch/CorpSummary.aspx?sysvalue=k_kK5h1Rwai01PHuH9.WoxGDyVF4QVK2t2AWirxgD1g-