

South Shore Health System, Inc.

DoN #21040109-HS

Applicant Responses

- 1. Describe the existing system of record sharing for patients referred out of South Shore Health System for an MRI scan.**
 - When a patient is referred from SSH to a non-SSHS facility for MR imaging, the referral is coordinated by the Radiology Department with the clinician taking care of the patient. Additionally, the Radiology Department coordinates the transfer and receipt of the images and any reports. Images acquired at the outside facility are obtained by SSHS via CD, which includes the imaging result. The outside images and reports are uploaded in to the patient's SSHS chart. If an outside facility needs prior imaging performed at SSHS for comparison purposes, SSHS has the ability to send images and reports electronically to the requestor via CD.
 - In some circumstances, inpatients may be transported to an outside facility for imaging but remain admitted at South Shore Hospital. This process would be coordinated by Radiology, the patient's care team, and Emergency Medical Services. The Radiology Department will coordinate the receipt of all imaging performed by the outside facility.
- 2. Race/ethnicity data for South Shore Health System and South Shore Health System MRI patients contain the category "Other" (pgs. 4 and 5). Provide a definition of this category.**
 - The Race/ethnicity categorized as "Other" is identified by our patients. For Race, the system used by South Shore Health System ("SSHS") has the following options to select: American Indian or Alaska Native, Asian, Black or African American, Decline to Answer, Native Hawaiian or Other Pacific Islander, Other, Unknown, White Caucasian. If the patient does not fit the above options, "Other" is typically used. "Other" is not broken out in SSHS's medical record system.
 - For Ethnicity, SSH provides numerous options; however, "Other" is not an option. Images of the SSHS medical record system are below for reference (Figure 1).
- 3. Please confirm the full name and location of the two SSH outpatient satellites.**

Information for the two outpatient satellites is noted below.

 - South Shore Hospital Breast Care Center/Multispecialty Care; 101 Columbian Street, Suites 101, 101A and 201, South Weymouth, MA 02190
 - Center for Orthopedics, Spine, and Sports Medicine, 2 Pond Park Road, Hingham, MA 02190
- 4. Can you briefly tell me what the Basic Program is as compared to the SNF at Home**
 - Basic MIH services is frequent touch point and medical care for high utilizing patients or patients with chronic health conditions that we help manage in the community. Managing these patient in the community creates capacity within the health care system and emergency services.
- 5. What categories are included in "All Other" under payer mix.**
 - "All Other" include Worker's Comp and Auto/Motor Vehicle Accident insurance
- 6. Please clarify the age of the existing MRI unit.**
 - The machine is 18 years old.

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7. The table below lists the Applicant's explanation of the projected MRI volume at SSH main campus after project implementation.

Table 11: Projected MRI Scans at SSH Main Campus

	Year 1	Year 2	Year 3	Year 4	Year 5
SSH 3T MRI	6,720	6,854	6,991	7,131	7,273
SSH 1.5T MRI	6,295	6,421	6,549	6,680	6,814
Total	13,015	13,275	13,540	13,811	14,087

Referrals for 3T MRI	1,512 (FY20)
Patient transfers for MRI scans	190 (CY20)
Breast Cancer Program	1,042 (2020)
Aging Population	
Additional services that will contribute to projected scan volume Prostate imaging, neuro imaging, perfusion brain tumor imaging, seizure imaging, inflammatory arthropathies, small joint MRI, improved pediatric imaging, MR Enterography, and acute abdomen MRI.	
A decrease in inpatient and Emergency patient wait times for MRI will lead to reductions in overall length of stay, and an increase in the number of patients served.	

- South Shore Health has populated the below projected volume table as requested. Please note the following projections are based on actual volume from FY 2020 which reflect a significant reduction in utilization as a result of COVID-19. As the impacts of the pandemic lessen, and services return to pre-pandemic levels, the Applicant anticipates that MRI utilization will return to volumes that are at least equivalent to 2019, if not higher due to demand from delayed care during the pandemic as well as aging and population growth. For those reasons, the below table reflects annual growth of 1.5% with the exception of the Breast Cancer Program which has been experiencing much higher year-over-year growth and therefore historical growth was used to project volume for Year One.
- Additionally, it is important to note that while some scans will only be performed on the 3T scanner, it will be used as appropriate to meet MRI demand at the Hospital. Therefore, 3T specific projections (4,096) and projected 1.5T increases (1,381), should be looked at in total with 2019 historical volume (7,471) to project Year One volume, approximately 12,948 scans. While this figure is slightly lower than the 13,015 scans initially projected in the Application, it does not represent a significant deviation and as described above, can be attributed to the pandemic. In addition, these projections support the need for an additional unit at the main campus.

YEAR ONE PROJECTED VOLUME		
	Overall (1.5 and 3T)	3T Specific

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Referrals for 3T MRI	NA	1,558
Patient transfers for MRI scans	NA	196
Breast Cancer Program	NA	1622
Aging Population	199	NA
Additional services that will contribute to projected scan volume: Neuro imaging, perfusion brain tumor imaging, seizure imaging, inflammatory arthropathies, small joint MRI, improved pediatric imaging, MR Enterography, and acute abdomen MRI.	NA	720
A decrease in inpatient and Emergency patient wait times for MRI will lead to reductions in overall length of stay, and an increase in the number of patients served.	1,182	NA
Totals	1,381	4,096
Combined Totals	5,477	