

Minutes of Meeting
Health Services Council
Project Review Committee-I

DATE: 8 December 2009

TIME: 2:30 PM

LOCATION: Conference Room B
Department of Administration

ATTENDANCE:

Name	Present	Absent	Excused
Committee-I			
Victoria Almeida, Esq. (Vice Chair)	X		
Edward F. Almon			X
John X. Donahue	X		
John W. Flynn			X
Wallace Gernt			X
Amy Lapierre	X		
Steven Lonardo	X		
Thomas M. Madden, Esq.	X		
Robert Quigley, DC (Chairman)	X		
Robert Ricci		X	
Robert Whiteside		X	
Committee-II			
Sen. Catherine Graziano	X		

Staff: Valentina Adamova, MBA, Michael K. Dexter, MPA, Joseph G. Miller, Esq., Michael Varadian, JD, MBA

Public: (Attached)

1. Call to Order, Approval of Minutes, Conflict of Interest Forms and Extension for the Minutes Availability

The meeting was called to order at 2:35 PM. The Chair noted that conflict of interest forms are available to any member who may have a conflict. A motion was made, seconded and passed by a vote of five in favor with none opposed (5-0) that the availability of minutes for this meeting be extended beyond the time frame as provided for under the Open Meetings Act. Those members voting in favor were: Almeida, Donahue, Lapierre, Lonardo, Quigley.

2. General Order of Business

The first item on the agenda was the application of **Women & Infants Hospital of Rhode Island** [Care New England Health Systems] for a Certificate of Need to acquire a da Vinci Si Robotic System to offer minimally invasive gynecologic procedures.

Mr. Lonardo questioned the applicant regarding the impact of the additional cost of performing procedures on the da Vinci and whether it would be passed onto the payors. The applicant stated that at this time there is no expectation for payments to increase as a result of using the da Vinci.

According to the applicant, surgeons must do straightforward cases (conventional laparoscopy) using da Vinci to continue to develop and maintain the best skills. Robot assisted surgery has a lower conversion rate to open surgery than conventional laparoscopy.

The Vice Chair stated that the largest population in Rhode Island is women and this provides an opportunity for the Committee to create at W & I what the Committee sought to create for men at The Miriam Hospital and that is to help W & I become a center of excellence for women, particularly where indication is appropriate for the treatment of certain kinds of cancer.

The Committee was concerned that other charges to charity care patients would be an access impediment to the da Vinci. The Committee noted several examples of these potential impediments such as charges by the anesthesiologists and/or physicians credentialed at the hospital who were not employed by the hospital. After discussion, the Committee decided to provide the applicant with the flexibility to determine its own method of eliminating impediments and, thus, recommends that a condition of approval that the applicant develop and implement procedures so that patients who receive surgical services on the da Vinci Si will not be billed for any professional components and ancillary services related to the surgical procedure. Further, as a condition of approval, the Committee requested that the applicant provide data on cost, quality, outcomes and utilization when requested.

A motion was made, seconded and passed by a vote of five in favor and none opposed (5-0) to recommend that the application be approved subject to the conditions of approval. Those members voting in favor included: Almeida, Donahue, Lapierre, Lonardo, Quigley.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 4:40 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Valentina D. Adamova, MBA
Health Economics Specialist