

September 17, 2009

Karen Nidermayer
Certificate of Need Program
Department of Health
PO Box 47852
Olympia, WA 98504-7852

R E C E I V E D
SEP 21 2009

CERTIFICATE OF NEED PROGRAM
DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH

Dear Ms Nidermayer:

In accordance with WAC 246-310-080, North Cascade Eye Associates, P.S., dba Eye Associates Surgery Center hereby submits this letter of intent proposing to provide additional services of retinal surgery and plastic surgery in our currently exempt (ophthalmology) Ambulatory Surgery Center. These services would be provided by surgeons who do not have an ownership in North Cascade Eye Associates, P.S. therefore a Certificate of Need would be required.

1. Description of the Extent of Services Proposed:

As an exempt ASC, physician access is limited to those physicians that are employed by North Cascade Eye Associates and are not otherwise employed elsewhere. Ophthalmologists with sub-specialty training in retina and ophthalmic plastics and general plastic surgery are employed part time by North Cascade Eye Associates or otherwise regularly providing services in our service area; however, since they are also employed elsewhere, they are currently denied use in our exempt ASC and have to take the patients outside our service area for surgical care. Local facilities are not equipped to provide these specialty services. The currently exempt facility is designed and equipped to provide these services with the exception of equipment needed to provide the retinal surgical care. The exempt facility is currently equipped in just one of its two operating rooms and this project would entail equipping the second operating room with said retinal equipment.

2. Estimated Capital Expenditure or estimated cost of proposed project:


Capital expenditures of approximately \$300,000 will be needed to purchase equipment to supplement our existing ophthalmic equipment and implement this project.

3. Description of the Service Area:

The service area for this project is Skagit County and the facility location as defined in WAC 246-310-270 is E. Skagit.

Please contact me directly with any questions.

Sincerely,


Sheri Saldivar, CMPE
Chief Executive Officer
North Cascade Eye Associates, P.S.