

Approved by the Regents
May 15, 2008

THE UNIVERSITY OF MICHIGAN
REGENTS COMMUNICATION

ACTION REQUEST

Subject: Participation in a consortium of non-profit, Michigan hospitals collaborating on the development of a proton beam radiation therapy center in the state of Michigan.

Action Requested: Approval to participate in a consortium to develop a proton beam radiation therapy center according to guidelines developed and approved by the Certificate of Need Commission on April 30, 2008.

Background:

Proton beam radiation is a promising, but not yet proven therapy for most cancers. To date, research has shown that proton beam therapy has the potential to benefit a subset of cancer patients, especially children. Other areas where therapy appears to be beneficial are lung cancer and some ocular and skull-based tumors. The benefit for prostate cancer over standard photon therapy is not established.

A consortium of non-profit hospitals is the most appropriate way to develop and evaluate this promising therapy for our state. The hospitals in the consortium have been the trusted source of medical care for Michigan residents for many years.

A consortium will ensure this new technology and cutting-edge care will be available to all Michigan residents who would benefit from it.

Working together will ensure health care costs are contained and that only necessary care is provided.

We recommend that the Regents approve participation of the University of Michigan Health System in the proposed consortium. The precise methods for participation in the consortium will be developed over the coming months and we will return to the Board with specific details for approval.

Respectfully submitted,



Robert P. Kelch
Executive Vice President
for Medical Affairs



Timothy P. Slottow
Executive Vice President and
Chief Financial Officer

May 2008