



**COUNTY OF SAN MATEO**  
Inter-Departmental Correspondence  
Health System



**Date:** January 17, 2017  
**Board Meeting Date:** March 28, 2017  
**Special Notice / Hearing:** None  
**Vote Required:** Majority

**To:** Honorable Board of Supervisors

**From:** Louise Rogers, Chief, Health System  
Chester J. Kunnappilly, MD, Chief Executive Officer, San Mateo Medical Center

**Subject:** Agreement with Howard Belfer, MD to Provide Neurology Services

**RECOMMENDATION:**

Adopt a resolution authorizing an agreement with Howard Belfer, MD to provide neurology services for the term April 1, 2017 through March 31, 2019, to an amount not to exceed \$460,000.

**BACKGROUND:**

Neurology is a non-surgical specialty area that addresses many of the root causes for neurological disorders, nerve damage and pain. In particular, the discipline serves as a basis for differential diagnoses for most core medical specialty areas; uneven balance and gait as it relates to brain tumors, apnea and sleep disorders; the impact of seizures captured through Electroencephalogram (EEG) and Electromyogram readings; back problems related to spinal nerve damage, and brain disorders, including chemical imbalances and mental status. San Mateo Medical Center (SMMC) has a continuous need for neurology services.

Dr. Belfer has provided neurology services at SMMC for many years, offering SMMC the benefits of an experienced practitioner familiar with the complex nature of the County patient base.

**DISCUSSION:**

Dr. Belfer will continue to provide neurology clinic services, test interpretation, and call coverage. Dr. Belfer works with another neurologist, Dr. Michael Siegel, whose agreement is being submitted separately, to provide 24/7 call coverage for SMMC neurology patients.

The resolution contains the County's standard provisions allowing amendment of the County fiscal obligations by a maximum of \$25,000 (in aggregate).

The agreement and resolution have been reviewed and approved by County Counsel as to form.

County Administrative Memorandum B-1 provides that contracts for physicians are exempt from the Request for Proposals process.

This agreement contributes to the Shared Vision 2025 outcome of a Healthy Community by providing basic neurology services to SMMC patients. It is anticipated that all EEGs will be read and interpreted within 24 hours of administration.

**PERFORMANCE MEASURE:**

Measure	FY 2016-17 Actual	FY 2017-18 Projected
Percentage of EEGs read and interpreted within 24 hours of administration	80%	90%

**FISCAL IMPACT:**

The term of the agreement is April 1, 2017 through March 31, 2019. The amount of the agreement is not to exceed \$460,000 for the three-year term. Funds in the amount of \$60,000 are included in the SMMC FY 2016-17 Adopted Budget and funds in the amount of \$230,000 will be included in the SMMC FY 2017-18 Recommended Budget.

The payment provisions of the contract are different from the prior contract due to a 18% year-on-year increase. This increase is comprised of: (1) 6% increase to reflect current Medical Group Management Association rates for neurology services; and (2) 12% increase for additional surgery blocks for EMG readings, to decrease patient backlog.

Expenses at SMMC are covered by fees for services or third-party payors whenever possible. The portion of expenses for services provided to the medical indigent or to those covered by programs that do not fully meet the costs of care are covered by the County General Fund contribution to SMMC, and are within the existing annual appropriation.