

Guiding Principles of the Certificate of Need Study

Maryland has been and continues to be an active and innovative State in developing health policy initiatives. To develop a consensus around a set of principles by which to evaluate and potentially change a regulatory tool for a diverse group of health care services requires that every stakeholder in the study's outcome consider, and answer some fundamental questions. The responses of providers, payers, and consumers of State-regulated health care services to these questions will help to shape the guiding principles and recommendations on the future of CON in Maryland.

Need

- What is the role of State government oversight in structuring the supply and distribution of certain health resources?
- What is the role of State government oversight in regulating market entry and exit?
- What are the appropriate geographic regions for planning and regulating hospital services? Nursing home services? Highly specialized services?

Access

- As the health care system continues to downsize and consolidate, what is the role of CON in ensuring access to care?
- For services where market and referral areas cross state boundaries, how should regulatory policies and decisions be coordinated with adjacent states?

Cost Containment

- Should providers that offer benefit to special populations be given an advantage or protected by the State regulatory system?
- What is the role of CON in promoting competition?
- How should the incentives and goals of the CON program be aligned with the hospital rate setting program? With the Medicaid program? With other health policy initiatives?

Quality of Care

- What is the role of CON in establishing and monitoring compliance with quality and outcome standards?
- What is the role of CON in staffing standards?

Accountability

- What is the role of State government in monitoring the performance of health care facilities and services?
- What role does CON play in ensuring public awareness and participation in decisions that affect delivery of and access to health care services