

From Report of the Certificate of Need Task Force, November 22, 2005

Principles to Guide the CON Program

Maryland's Certificate of Need program should:

- respond to its residents' needs for health care services, including hospital, long term care, ambulatory surgery, and specialized services;
- promote the quality and safety of these services;
- promote improved access to these services, including addressing the needs of underserved populations and both the ethnic and racial disparities in health care which presently exist; and
- promote the affordability of health care available to Maryland residents.

Certificate of Need should apply in situations where market forces are likely to result in:

- significantly higher or unnecessary costs to the system;
- decreased access to care by vulnerable populations or less populous regions of the state; or
- a diminution of the quality or safety of patient care.

The Certificate of Need program should be:

- procedurally clear, consistent, and timely;
- flexible enough to accommodate unique situations, whether of provider mission, geography and demographics, or technological advances; and
- specific to Maryland's unique policy and regulatory framework.

The State Health Plan standards, review criteria, and associated data used to conduct Certificate of Need reviews should be kept current, and regularly updated.