

MARYLAND HEALTH CARE COMMISSION

Emergency Certificate of Need

TO: Terry Forde, President & CEO
Adventist Health Care, Inc.

January 10, 2021
Date

Anthony Stahl, President
AHC White Oak Medical Center

RE: Establishment of a 16-bed Intensive Care Unit for COVID-19 Positive Patients at the Alternative Care Site and Temporary Remote Location of Adventist HealthCare, Inc. d/b/a Adventist HealthCare White Oak Medical Center at the Former Site of Washington Adventist Hospital in Takoma Park, Maryland

EM-H21-15-041
Docket No.

DESCRIPTION OF EMERGENCY PROJECT

This Emergency Certificate of Need authorizes Adventist HealthCare, Inc. d/b/a Adventist HealthCare White Oak Medical Center (White Oak) to establish an intensive care unit (ICU) comprised of 16 medical/surgical/gynecological/addictions (MSGAs) beds at its remote location, an Alternate Care Site located at the former Washington Adventist Hospital, 7600 Carroll Avenue, Takoma Park (Montgomery County), Maryland (the Site). The Executive Director has previously approved and the Maryland Health Care Commission has affirmed two Emergency Certificates of Need (E-CONs) for White Oak's remote site at Takoma Park. The project in the first E-CON (Docket No. EM-H20-15-008; April 4, 2020) for 63 MSGA beds on the fifth floor¹ of the remote location was not initiated by White Oak as a result of its and the State's ongoing discussions that recognized a greater need for MSGA beds and for an additional Alternate Care Site in the Capital Region Area. On May 19, 2020, White Oak applied for and, on May 20, 2020, the Executive Director issued a second E-CON (Docket No. EM- H20-15-036) approving the establishment of the 200-bed Alternate Care Site at the Site.²

The 16-bed ICU in this third E-CON will be located on the first floor of the Site in space that was an ICU at the former hospital. White Oak estimates that the ICU will be brought online by January 15, 2021, at an estimated cost³ of \$100,000, which will be borne by the State of Maryland.

¹ Of the 63 MSGA beds approved in the first E-CON, 42 were to be located in space on the fifth floor (then and currently) occupied by the separately licensed Adventist Rehabilitation Hospital, with the remaining 21 MSGA beds to be located in a former MSGA inpatient unit on that floor.

² Of the 200 MSGA beds approved for the Alternate Care Site, 123 beds on the third and fourth floors are currently operational and available for patients. Sixty-one of the remaining beds could be made available for patients with non-extensive work. As noted, White Oak states that the 16 beds in the current E-CON application to establish an ICU can be available for inpatients by January 15, 2021.

³ Primarily for equipment.

ORDER

Upon consideration of the request of White Oak, suitably detailed information provided by the Office of Health Care Quality (OHCQ) and others, and consultation with the Chairman of the Maryland Health Care Commission (MHCC), Ben Steffen, MHCC Executive Director, determined that the lack of sufficient inpatient bed capacity at Maryland general hospitals resulting from COVID-19 presents a hazard to patients and/or employees, as provided in COMAR 10.24.01.20A.

Therefore, it is, on January 10, 2021, ordered by the Executive Director that an Emergency Certificate of Need issue for the project. It is further ordered that the requirement in COMAR 10.24.01.20C that White Oak file an application for Certificate of Need for the inpatient beds established in this Emergency Certificate of Need is suspended by the Executive Director pursuant to COMAR 10.24.01.10A(2) until 30 days after the termination of the state of emergency declared by Governor Lawrence J. Hogan, Jr. on March 5, 2020. This application filing date may be extended by the Executive Director.

Approvals by Maryland Department of Health

This Emergency Certificate of Need does not constitute a license or replace any approvals for other aspects of the project that are required by the OHCQ or other divisions of the Maryland Department of Health to operate inpatient bed capacity at the Site.

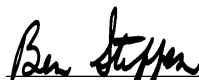
Further Action

This Emergency Certificate of Need will be considered for confirmation by the Maryland Health Care Commission at its next scheduled meeting on June 18, 2020. This Emergency Certificate of Need initially remains valid for a maximum of 165 days, as provided in COMAR 10.24.01.20C, or until 30 days after the termination of the state of emergency declared by Governor Lawrence J. Hogan, Jr. on March 5, 2020. The Emergency CON may be extended beyond that date for good cause shown.

CONDITION OF EMERGENCY CERTIFICATE OF NEED

Because it is important that the Maryland Health Care Commission and the Office of Health Care Quality know when the ICU approved in this Emergency Certificate of Need is available for patients, it is further ORDERED that White Oak shall advise MHCC staff and OHCQ staff of first use of the ICU.

MARYLAND HEALTH CARE COMMISSION



Ben Steffen
Executive Director

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cc: Dennis R. Schrader, Acting Secretary of Health
Patricia T. Nay, M.D., Executive Director, Office of Health Care Quality
Renee Webster, Deputy Director, Federal Programs, Office of Health Care Quality
Katie Wunderlich, Executive Director, HSCRC
Travis A. Gayles, M.D., Ph.D., Health Officer, Montgomery County