MARYLAND
Department of Health

Larry Hogan, Governor · Boyd K. Rutherford, Lt. Governor · Robert R. Neall, Secretary

Office Health Care Quality
7120 Samuel Morse Drive
Second Floor
Columbia MD 21046

April 4, 2020

Ben Steffen, Executive Director
Maryland Health Care Commission
4160 Patterson Avenue
Baltimore MD 21215

Dear Mr. Steffen,

As you are aware, on March 5, 2020, Governor Hogan issued a proclamation that a state of emergency and a catastrophic health emergency exists in Maryland, due to the COVID-19 outbreak. Based on the increased need for acute general hospital beds due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the Office of Health Care Quality is requesting that the Maryland Health Care Commission apply its authority under COMAR 10.24.01.20 to grant an emergency certificate of need to Kaiser Pemanente of the MidAtlantic (Kaiser).

Kaiser has requested a temporary license to operate its current patient care centers as inpatient hospitals. The facility would serve Kaiser enrollees who could be kept inpatient for acute medical treatment. The facility will be staffed by current Kaiser staff and specialists. It will use all current systems in place at Kaiser including medical records and equipment. The centers will serve Kaiser enrollees in but will transfer them to acute care hospitals if they require intensive care services. Kaiser Permanente Gaithersburg Medical Center at 695 Watkins Mill Road Gaithersburg Maryland will be able serve 49 inpatients in 33 Clinical Decision Unit rooms, 16 beds in the ambulatory surgery center. The facility would have 49 inpatient beds.

The Office of Health Care Quality recommends this certificate of need should be approved on an emergency basis and based on the information provided by the Kaiser, the Kaiser Permanente Gaithersburg Medical Center can be temporarily licensed as a hospital by the state of Maryland serving patients insured in any Kaiser Health Plan.

Please contact me if you have any questions at (410)402-8090 or (443)681-0278.

Sincerely,

Renee B. Webster

Renee B, Webster, Deputy Director, Federal Programs