

# MARYLAND HEALTH CARE COMMISSION

## Emergency Certificate of Need

**TO:** Michael A. Franklin, FACHE  
President/CEO  
Atlantic General Hospital  
9733 Healthway Drive  
Berlin, MD 21811

April 14, 2020  
Date

**RE:** Atlantic General Hospital  
Establishment of Up To 16 Additional  
Inpatient Beds at Berlin Nursing and  
Rehabilitation Center

EM-H20-23-025  
Docket No.

### DESCRIPTION OF EMERGENCY PROJECT

This Emergency Certificate of Need authorizes Atlantic General Hospital to establish additional inpatient bed capacity consisting of up to 16 semi-private medical/surgical/gynecological/addictions beds for low acuity patients to be located in a first floor unit of Berlin Nursing and Rehabilitation Center, 9715 Healthway Drive, Berlin (Worcester County) (the Site), which is adjacent to Atlantic General Hospital. The total capital costs of the project, including capital leases, facility renovation, beds, IT, and other equipment, is estimated to be \$229,240.<sup>1</sup> The hospital anticipates that the additional inpatient beds will be brought online by April 30, 2020.

### ORDER

Upon consideration of the request of Atlantic General Hospital, 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 April 14, 2020, 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 Atlantic General Hospital file an application for Certificate of Need for the inpatient beds established in this Emergency Certificate of Need is suspended by the Executive

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<sup>1</sup> Atlantic General Hospital also is requesting that the Office of Health Care Quality issue a temporary 27-bed increase in licensed capacity in space at the hospital that has headwalls or piped gases. This cost estimate may include the cost for bringing those beds online.

Director pursuant to COMAR 10.24.01.10A(2) until at least 30 days after the termination of the state of emergency declared by Governor Lawrence J. Hogan, Jr. on March 5, 2020.

### **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.

### **Duration of Emergency CON; Further Action**

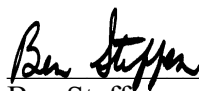
This Emergency Certificate of Need will be considered for confirmation by the Maryland Health Care Commission at its meeting on May 21, 2020, or on another date of which you will be notified. This Emergency Certificate of Need initially remains in effect for a maximum of 165 days, as provided in COMAR 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 inpatient beds approved in this Emergency Certificate of Need are available for patients, it is further

**ORDERED that Atlantic General Hospital shall advise MHCC staff and OHCQ staff when the inpatient beds become operational at the Site, disclosing: (1) the number of beds in this Emergency CON that become available for patients; and (2) the date the beds become available.** The hospital shall: notify MHCC staff by sending an email with this information to [ruby.potter@maryland.gov](mailto:ruby.potter@maryland.gov); and notify OHCQ staff of this temporary increase in its licensed bed capacity by completing OHCQ's Application for Temporary Adjustment of Hospital Beds, which is located at: <https://app.smartsheet.com/b/form/c7e6598943c84dd2ba9e39859a9f3383>.

### **MARYLAND HEALTH CARE COMMISSION**



Ben Steffen  
Executive Director

cc: Robert R. Neall, Secretary of Health  
Renee Webster, Deputy Director, Federal Programs, Office of Health Care Quality  
Katie Wunderlich, Executive Director, HSCRC  
Rebecca Jones, RN, BSN, Health Officer, Worcester County