

MARYLAND HEALTH CARE COMMISSION

Emergency Certificate of Need

TO: Neil Meltzer, President
LifeBridge Health, Inc.
2401 W. Belvedere Avenue
Baltimore, Maryland 21215

April 18, 2020
Date

RE: Northwest Hospital Center, Inc.
Establishment of 34 Inpatient Beds

EM-H20-03-030
Docket No.

DESCRIPTION OF EMERGENCY PROJECT

This Emergency Certificate of Need authorizes LifeBridge Health, Inc and Northwest Hospital Center, Inc. (Northwest Hospital) to establish additional inpatient bed capacity consisting of 34 medical/surgical/gynecological/addictions beds,¹ to be located in space that has been used as gyms, an orthopedic office, and wound care space at Northwest Hospital, 5401 Old Court Road, Randallstown (Baltimore County), Maryland (the Site), at an estimated cost of \$18,500. Northwest Hospital estimates that the beds will be operational by April 25, 2020.

ORDER

Upon consideration of the request of Northwest 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 18, 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 Northwest Hospital 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 at least 30 days after the termination of the state of emergency declared by Governor Lawrence J. Hogan, Jr. on March 5, 2020.

¹ Northwest Hospital will be adding 71 temporary additional beds and converting 67 existing inpatient beds and other patient space to negative pressure for COVID-19 patients or patients under investigation, at an estimated additional cost of \$325,431. The 71 beds will be added through a request to OHCQ for a temporary increase in licensed bed capacity.

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

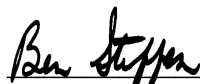
This Emergency Certificate of Need will be considered for confirmation by the Maryland Health Care Commission at its next scheduled meeting on May 21, 2020 or at an earlier date of which the hospital is notified. This Emergency Certificate of Need initially remains in effect for a maximum of 165 days, 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 Northwest 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; 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
Gregory Wm. Branch, M.D., MBA, CPE, Health Officer, Baltimore County
Teresa Fletcher, AVP, Business Development, LifeBridge Health Partners