

MARYLAND HEALTH CARE COMMISSION

Emergency Certificate of Need

TO: Neil Meltzer, President
LifeBridge Health, Inc.

November 25, 2020
Date

Daniel Blum, President & COO
Sinai Hospital of Baltimore, Inc.
2401 W. Belvedere Avenue
Baltimore, Maryland 21215

RE: Sinai Hospital of Baltimore, Inc.
Establishment of 24 Swing Beds to Accommodate
Either Lower Acuity Inpatients or Subacute Patients
Awaiting Placement in Comprehensive Care Facilities

EM-H20-24-037
Docket No.

DESCRIPTION OF EMERGENCY PROJECT

This Emergency Certificate of Need authorizes LifeBridge Health, Inc and Sinai Hospital of Baltimore, Inc. (Sinai Hospital) to establish 24 swing beds at Sinai Hospital in 24 currently unlicensed rooms that are slated for acute inpatient psychiatric patients. Sinai Hospital seeks to convert this space to 24 swing beds that could house, as needed and appropriate, either lower acuity medical/surgical/gynecological/addictions (MSGA) patients or patients needing subacute (comprehensive care facility) care who are awaiting placement at comprehensive care facilities. The space consists of rooms without headwalls or gases at Sinai Hospital, 2401 West Belvedere Avenue, Baltimore (Baltimore City), Maryland (the Site). The hospital anticipates that it may need to provide temporary electrical outlets in the rooms. Sinai Hospital estimates that the beds can be operational within seven days following approval, at an estimated cost of approximately \$40,000. Sinai Hospital has filed the necessary paperwork with the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services and received approval to operate the swing beds.

ORDER

Upon consideration of the request of Sinai 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 November 25, 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 Sinai 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 initially 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.

Further Action

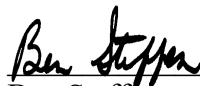
This Emergency Certificate of Need will be considered for confirmation by the Maryland Health Care Commission at its next scheduled meeting on December 17, 2020 or at an earlier date of which the hospital is notified. This Emergency Certificate of Need initially remains in effect for a maximum of 165 days, as provided in COMAR 10.24.01.20C, or until 30 days after the termination of the state of emergency initially 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 Sinai 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
Letitia Dzirasa, M.D., Health Officer, Baltimore City
Jason Weiner, Esquire, General Counsel, LifeBridge Health, Inc.