



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

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

May 10, 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 comprehensive care facility 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 Stella Maris.

Stella Maris is a licensed comprehensive care facility. It also operates an inpatient hospice unit on part of one floor. That unit is separately licensed and certified as a hospice. Stella Maris is requesting the temporary use of 11 hospice beds as comprehensive care beds to meet its current comprehensive care needs during the pandemic.

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 Stella Maris, these 11 beds can be provisionally licensed as part of Stella Maris.

Sincerely,

Renee B. Webster

Renee B. Webster, Deputy Director, Federal Programs