

November 19, 2020

Mr. Ben Steffen
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Executive Director
Maryland Health Care Commission
Baltimore, Maryland 21215

Ruby Potter
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Health Facilities Coordination Officer
Maryland Health Care Commission
4160 Patterson Avenue
Baltimore, Maryland 21215

Re: Emergency Certificate of Need Application – Expansion of MSGA Bed Capacity at the University of Maryland Medical Center

Dear Mr. Steffen and Ms. Potter:

On behalf of the University of Maryland Medical Center (UMMC) and pursuant to COMAR 10.24.01.20, we write to seek an emergency Certificate of Need (“CON”) to expand MSGA bed capacity at UMMC on a temporary basis, consisting of 16 MSGA beds to be located in a temporary modular setting on the hospital’s campus, located at the corner of South Greene Street and West Lombard Street in Baltimore, Maryland.

On March 5, 2020, the Governor of the State of Maryland, Lawrence J. Hogan, Jr., declared a state of emergency and catastrophic health emergency due to an outbreak of a coronavirus known as SARS-CoV-2 (“COVID-19”). Additionally, on March 16, 2020, the Governor issued an Executive Order directing the Maryland Department of Health to work with health care facilities to take measures necessary to increase statewide hospital capacity.

COVID-19 presents immediate hazards to the health of patients statewide. Based on the increased trajectory of COVID-19 patients, UMMC believes a component of its patient surge contingency plan requires action pursuant to your authority under COMAR 10.24.01.20B and consistent with Governor Hogan’s Executive Order to increase inpatient hospital capacity to accommodate potential surge capacities related to COVID-19.

Project Description

UMMC hereby applies for an Emergency CON for the purpose of establishing additional inpatient capacity of 16 MSGA beds in preparation for an expected surge in hospital admissions related to COVID-19 infection and treatment. The additional inpatient capacity will be contained in two Modular Intensive Care Units consisting of eight ICU beds per modular unit for a total of 16 MSGA (ICU) beds. The modular trailers have been installed at the corner of South Greene Street and West Lombard Street, directly across from the Medical Center's Gudelsky entrance. It is UMMC's plan, pending all necessary approvals, opening of these beds will be December 2, 2020.

Estimated Project Cost

The cost of the project will not exceed the hospital capital threshold requiring a CON from the Maryland Health Care Commission under MARYLAND CODE, HEALTH-GENERAL § 19-120(a)(4). The State of Maryland is paying the total capital costs associated with the Modular Intensive Care Units and providing the units for use by UMMC. The Modular Intensive Care Units will be returned to the State after UMMC no longer needs them to address the existing health crisis. UMMC will operationalize the additional inpatient capacity when indicated by UMMC's patient surge contingency plan. Attached you will find the executed agreement between the University of Maryland Medical Center and the State of Maryland.

We respectfully request you to act on this request as soon as possible so that UMMC can be prepared for expected maximum patient surge of COVID-19 patients. Please let us know if you need any additional information regarding the requested emergency CON Application.

Sincerely,



Bert O'Malley, MD
President and CEO

Enclosure:

cc:

Kevin McDonald, Chief, Certificate of Need
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