



March 8, 2023

VIA Email & U.S. MAIL

Arvin Singh
Vice President, Strategic Planning and Communications
University of Maryland Shore Regional Health
219 South Washington Street
Easton, Maryland, 21601

Re: Matter No. 23-20-2463
Shore Health System, Inc.
Relocation of University of Maryland Shore Medical
Center at Easton

Dear Mr. Singh:

Commission staff has reviewed the application and first completeness responses from the above-referenced Certificate of Need (CON) application. The information provided in the original application and supplemented in the first completeness response is incomplete, and therefore staff requests that you provide responses to the following questions:

State Health Plan

**COMAR 10.24.10.
Acute Hospital Services**

Identification of Bed Need and Addition of Beds

1. In the original application, the applicant stated the recent decrease in Shore's market share was attributed to increases in MIEMSS Red and Yellow alerts during the Covid pandemic. Applicant's completeness response, however, stated that all area hospitals experienced increased MIEMSS Red and Yellow alerts. If all area hospitals experienced the same increased MIEMSS Red and Yellow alerts, please provide a more detailed explanation of how the decrease in market share was unique to Shore?
2. The completeness response states that one RN and one technician will staff the pediatric unit (Question #9). How will applicant adjust staffing for the pediatric unit in periods of both high and low volume? See Table 108.

**COMAR 10.24.11.
General Surgical Services**

3. Please provide the surgical turn-around time currently experienced by other UMMS hospitals. If there are differences in TAT times between the institutions, please provide an explanation as to the causes for these varying TAT times.
 - a) Will the seven ORs at UM SMC at Easton each be equipped to perform robotic surgery? Please identify the ORs that will be equipped for robotic surgery.
 - a) Please explain the approximate 40 minute TAT times for ORs that utilize robotic surgery, as indicated on p. 39.
4. On p. 40, applicant states that inpatient surgical cases average time of 123 minutes/case and outpatient cases at 86 minutes/case will remain constant from FY2023 through FY 2032. Please provide the assumptions used to support the surgical minutes per case remaining unchanged at these levels and not decreasing during this ten-year time period, particularly with surgical improvements, technology and the use of robotic surgery.

**COMAR 10.24.21
Acute Psychiatric Services**

5. UM representatives stated that if a high acuity geriatric patient presents in the psychiatric unit at the replacement hospital with a neurocognitive diagnosis they will not be served on the unit. Please describe Shore's plans and procedures for managing these patients, including details about transfers for care and any corresponding transfer agreements.

Please submit four copies of the responses to the above questions and the requests for additional information within ten working days of receipt. Also submit the response electronically, in both Word and PDF format, to Ruby Potter (ruby.potter@maryland.gov). If additional time is needed to prepare a response, please let me know at your earliest convenience.

As with the request itself, all information supplementing the request must be signed by person(s) available for cross-examination on the facts set forth in the supplementary information, who shall sign a statement as follows: "I hereby declare and affirm under the penalties of perjury that the facts stated in this application and its attachments are true and correct to the best of my knowledge, information, and belief."



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Should you have any questions regarding this matter, please contact me at (410) 764-5982.

Sincerely,



Wynee Hawk
Chief Certificate of Need

cc:

Andrew Solberg
Thomas Dame, Esquire
Mallory Regenbogen, Esquire
Alison B. Lutich, Esquire
Ruby Potter, MHCC
Paul Parker, MHCC
Caitlin Tepe, AAG, MHCC
Alexa Bertinelli, AAG, MHCC
Maria A. Maguire, M.D., Health Officer, Talbot County

