



December 6, 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 is completing the review and recommendation for the University of Maryland Shore Medical Center at Easton (UM SMC Easton) certificate of need application. To complete this report, the Maryland Health Care Commission requests that the applicant provide the following response to support the need for two special purpose operating rooms (“c-section rooms”) in the replacement hospital.

State Health Plan

COMAR 10.24.11.
General Surgical Services

1. Under COMAR 10.24.11.07B(34), the definition for a “special purpose operating room” means a sterile operating room that is dedicated for a specific purpose or surgical specialty such as a cesarean-section operating room and in which space, equipment, or other factors limit its use to a narrow range of surgical procedures.

Pursuant to COMAR 10.24.11.05B(2)(a) - (c), Need – Minimum Utilization for a New or Replacement Facility, please provide a response that address each subparagraph of this standard, with particular attention to (b) that references COMAR 10.24.11.06 to support the need for two special purpose operating rooms at UM SMC Easton upon project completion.

2. Similar to your response to support the need for the seven mixed-use general purpose ORs, provide the historic (FY 2019 through 2022) utilization for the one c-section OR and the projected utilization (FY 2023 through 2029) during construction. Also, provide the projected utilization of the two special purpose ORs (“c-section rooms”) upon project completion (FY 2030 through 2032).

The utilization data should include the annual number of c-section cases, average number of c-section surgery minutes per case, and the average turnaround time (TAT) for the c-section surgical cases for the historic and projected years.

If the TAT is not consistent with COMAR 10.24.11.06A(2)(a) for a 25-minute turnaround time, please provide the assumptions that document and support the need for the alternative TAT.

3. Also, in accordance with COMAR 10. 24.11.05B(6), Patient Safety, please address how UM SMC Easton addressed patient safety in the design for the two -c-section ORs.

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) and to mhcc.confilings@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."

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

Sincerely,



Jeanne Marie Gawel
Acting Chief, Certificate of Need

cc:

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

