

## MARYLAND HEALTH CARE COMMISSION

### SCHEDULES FOR CERTIFICATE OF NEED REVIEW

The Maryland Health Care Commission (MHCC or Commission) provides the following schedules to interested members of the public and sponsors of health care facility and service projects subject to Certificate of Need (CON) review and approval. Not every type of project is subject to the requirements of CON review and approval or included in this review schedule. In these cases, persons seeking CON approval for a project may file a letter of intent at any time. The procedural regulations governing CON reviews, COMAR 10.24.01, have been revised with an effective date of December 1, 2023. The newly adopted regulations will apply to all projects subject to this schedule. (See COMAR 10.24.01.07 and .08 for additional information on CON application filing and project review.)

The general criteria for Certificate of Need review are set forth at COMAR 10.24.01.08G(3). The first criterion is evaluation of the project according to all relevant State Health Plan standards, policies, and criteria. State Health Plan regulations can be accessed at [https://mhcc.maryland.gov/mhcc/pages/hcfs/hcfs\\_shp/hcfs\\_shp.aspx](https://mhcc.maryland.gov/mhcc/pages/hcfs/hcfs_shp/hcfs_shp.aspx).

This Certificate of Need review schedule updates the last schedule published in the *Maryland Register* on March 10, 2023, Volume 50, Issue 5, pages 199-202. This review schedule is not a solicitation by the Commission for Certificate of Need applications, and does not indicate, in and of itself, that additional capacity is needed in services subject to Certificate of Need review, or that Certificate of Need applications submitted for the services described will be approved by the Commission.

Applicants are encouraged to discuss their development plans and projects with the Commission Staff prior to filing letters of intent or applications.

Letters of Intent and applications for scheduled reviews may only be received and reviewed according to these published schedules. All Letters of Intent and Certificate of Need applications, including the required number of copies of CON applications, must be received at the offices of the **Maryland Health Care Commission, 4160 Patterson Avenue, Baltimore, Maryland 21215, no later than 4:30 p.m.** on the scheduled date of submission. Letters of Intent should be filed by US mail and email to [mhcc.confiling@maryland.gov](mailto:mhcc.confiling@maryland.gov) and [wynnee.hawk1@maryland.gov](mailto:wynnee.hawk1@maryland.gov) and [ruby.potter@maryland.gov](mailto:ruby.potter@maryland.gov). Letters of intent for projects not covered by this review schedule may be filed at any time.

For further information about review schedules or procedures, contact Jeanne-Marie Gawel, Acting Chief, Certificate of Need, at (410) 764-3371 or [jeanne-marie.gawel@maryland.gov](mailto:jeanne-marie.gawel@maryland.gov).

The Commission will use the following regional configuration of jurisdictions for the General Hospital Project, Special Hospital Project, Freestanding Ambulatory Surgical Facility Project, and Comprehensive Care Facility Project Review Schedules:

<b>Western Maryland:</b> Allegany, Frederick, Garrett, and Washington	<b>Central Maryland:</b> Anne Arundel, Baltimore City, Baltimore County, Carroll, Harford, and Howard
<b>Eastern Shore:</b> Caroline, Cecil, Dorchester, Kent, Queen Anne's, Somerset, Talbot, Wicomico, and Worcester	<b>Montgomery &amp; Southern Maryland:</b> Calvert, Charles, Montgomery, Prince George's, and St. Mary's

**General Hospital Projects**

The Commission hereby publishes the following schedules for the submission of Certificate of Need applications by general hospitals, for projects that involve: (1) capital expenditures by or on behalf of general hospitals that exceed the applicable capital expenditure threshold; (2) proposed changes in bed capacity or operating room capacity at existing hospitals; (3) the relocation of a general hospital; and/or (4) a change in the type or scope of any health care service offered by a general hospital, as specified at COMAR 10.24.01.02A, except for neonatal intensive care. Please note that the following schedule does not apply to the establishment of a new general hospital.

**Schedule One  
All General Hospital Projects**

Region	Letter of Intent Due Date	Pre-Application Conference Date	Application Submission Date
Montgomery & Southern Maryland	February 2, 2024	February 14, 2024	April 5, 2024
Western Maryland	March 1, 2024	March 13, 2024	May 3, 2024
Central Maryland	April 5, 2024	April 17, 2024	June 7, 2024
Eastern Shore	May 3, 2024	May 15, 2024	July 5, 2024

**Schedule Two  
All General Hospital Projects**

Region	Letter of Intent Due Date	Pre-Application Conference Date	Application Submission Date
Montgomery & Southern Maryland	August 2, 2024	August 14, 2024	October 4, 2024
Western Maryland	September 6, 2024	September 18, 2024	November 8, 2024
Central Maryland	October 4, 2024	October 16, 2024	December 6, 2024
Eastern Shore	November 1, 2024	November 13, 2024	January 3, 2025

**Special Hospital Projects (Pediatric, Psychiatric, Chronic, and Rehabilitation)**

The Commission hereby publishes the following schedules for the submission of Certificate of Need applications by special hospitals, for projects that involve: (1) capital expenditures by or on behalf of special hospitals that exceed the applicable capital expenditure threshold; (2) proposed changes in bed capacity at existing special hospitals; (3) the relocation of a special hospital; and/or (4) a change in the type or scope of any health care service offered by a special hospital, as specified at COMAR 10.24.01.02A. Please note that the following schedule does not apply to establishment of a new special hospital.

**Schedule One  
Special Hospitals (Pediatric, Psychiatric, Chronic, and Rehabilitation)**

Region	Letter of Intent Due Date	Pre-Application Conference Date	Application Submission Date
Central Maryland	February 2, 2024	February 14, 2024	April 5, 2024
Eastern Shore	March 1, 2024	March 13, 2024	May 3, 2024
Montgomery & Southern Maryland	April 5, 2024	April 17, 2024	June 7, 2024
Western Maryland	May 10, 2024	May 22, 2024	July 12, 2024

**Schedule Two  
Special Hospitals (Pediatric, Psychiatric, Chronic, and Rehabilitation)**

Region	Letter of Intent Due Date	Pre-Application Conference Date	Application Submission Date
Central Maryland	August 2, 2024	August 14, 2024	October 4, 2024
Eastern Shore	September 6, 2024	September 18, 2024	November 8, 2024
Montgomery & Southern Maryland	October 4, 2024	October 16, 2024	December 6, 2024
Western Maryland	November 1, 2024	November 13, 2024	January 3, 2025

**Freestanding Ambulatory Surgical Facility Projects**

The Commission hereby publishes the following schedules for the submission of Certificate of Need applications to establish freestanding ambulatory surgical facilities, add operating rooms at an existing freestanding ambulatory surgical facility, or make a capital expenditure by a hospital for a freestanding ambulatory surgical facility project that requires Certificate of Need review and approval. The definition of freestanding ambulatory surgical facility can be found at Health-General Article §19-114(b).

**Schedule One  
Freestanding Ambulatory Surgical Facility Projects**

Region	Letter of Intent Due Date	Pre-Application Conference Date	Application Submission Date
Central Maryland	February 2, 2024	February 14, 2024	April 5, 2024
Eastern Shore	March 1, 2024	March 13, 2024	May 3, 2024
Montgomery & Southern Maryland	April 5, 2024	April 17, 2024	June 7, 2024
Western Maryland	May 10, 2024	May 22, 2024	July 12, 2024

**Schedule Two  
Freestanding Ambulatory Surgical Facility Projects**

Region	Letter of Intent Due Date	Pre-Application Conference Date	Application Submission Date
Central Maryland	August 2, 2024	August 14, 2024	October 4, 2024
Eastern Shore	September 6, 2024	September 18, 2024	November 8, 2024
Montgomery & Southern Maryland	October 4, 2024	October 16, 2024	December 6, 2024
Western Maryland	November 1, 2024	November 13, 2024	January 3, 2025

**Comprehensive Care Facilities**

The Commission hereby republishes the following schedule for the review of projects proposed in CON applications that do not involve an increase in CCF bed capacity in the jurisdiction in which the project is located. These include projects that relocate an existing facility or, in effect, relocate CCF bed capacity from an existing facility to a new site within the same jurisdiction. At the time of the letter of intent submission, an applicant shall demonstrate compliance with the requirements of COMAR 10.24.20.05A(8) by submitting an analysis of the average CMS star ratings of applicable facilities. The applicant may interpret "average" to be mean or median.

**Schedule One  
Comprehensive Care Facility Services**

Region	Letter of Intent Due Date	Pre-Application Conference Date	Application Submission Date
Montgomery & Southern Maryland	December 29, 2023	January 10, 2024	February 27, 2024
Western Maryland	December 29, 2023	January 10, 2024	February 27, 2024
Central Maryland	February 2, 2024	February 14, 2024	April 5, 2024
Eastern Shore	March 1, 2024	March 13, 2024	May 3, 2024

**Schedule Two  
Comprehensive Care Facility Services**

Region	Letter of Intent Due Date	Pre-Application Conference Date	Application Submission Date
Montgomery & Southern Maryland	August 2, 2024	August 14, 2024	October 4, 2024
Western Maryland	September 6, 2024	September 18, 2024	November 8, 2024
Central Maryland	October 4, 2024	October 16, 2024	December 6, 2024
Eastern Shore	November 1, 2024	November 13, 2024	January 3, 2025

**Freestanding Medical Facility Projects**

The Commission hereby publishes the following statewide schedule for Certificate of Need review of proposed projects by general hospitals to establish or relocate freestanding medical facilities (FMFs) and proposed capital expenditures by hospitals for FMF projects that exceed the applicable capital expenditure threshold. Please note that these schedules do not apply to the filing of a request for an Exemption from Certificate of Need by a general hospital seeking to convert to a freestanding medical facility.

**Schedule One  
Freestanding Medical Facility Projects**

Letter of Intent Due Date	Pre-Application Conference Date	Application Submission Date
February 2, 2024	February 14, 2024	April 5, 2024

**Cardiac Surgery Services**

The Maryland Health Care Commission provides the following schedule for the review of applications for Certificates of Need ("CON") by general hospitals seeking to introduce cardiac surgery services. This review schedule is not a solicitation by the Commission for CON applications, and it does not indicate that additional capacity is needed or that CON applications submitted will be approved by the Commission. Applicants are encouraged to discuss their development plans and projects with the Commission staff prior to filing Letters of Intent. Please note that there is no scheduled review cycle for the Baltimore/Upper Shore region because the applicable State Health Plan, COMAR 10.24.17, states that, "a new cardiac surgery program will only be considered in a health planning region if the most recently approved program in the health planning region has been in operation for at least three years." The most recently approved program in the Baltimore/Upper Shore region initiated operation in December, 2020.

**Region Definitions for Cardiac Surgery**

<b>Metropolitan Washington Region:</b> Calvert, Charles, Frederick, Montgomery, Prince George's, and St. Mary's	<b>Eastern (Lower Shore) Region:</b> Dorchester, Somerset, Wicomico, and Worcester
<b>Western Region:</b> Allegany, Garrett, and Washington	

**Schedule One  
Cardiac Surgery Services**

Planning Region	Letter of Intent Due Date	Pre-Application Conference Date	Application Submission Date
Metropolitan Washington	February 2, 2024	February 14, 2024	April 5, 2024
Eastern (Lower Shore)	March 1, 2024	March 13, 2024	May 3, 2024
Western	April 5, 2024	April 17, 2024	June 7, 2024

**Schedule Two  
Cardiac Surgery Services**

Planning Region	Letter of Intent Due Date	Pre-Application Conference Date	Application Submission Date
Metropolitan Washington	August 2, 2024	August 14, 2024	October 4, 2024
Eastern (Lower Shore)	September 6, 2024	September 18, 2024	November 8, 2024
Western	October 4, 2024	October 16, 2024	December 6, 2024

**Home Health Agency Projects**

There are no scheduled CON review cycles for Home Health Agency applicants at this time.

[23-24-05]