

MARYLAND HEALTH CARE COMMISSION

Emergency Certificate of Need

TO: Nathaniel Richardson, Jr., President & CEO
University of Maryland Capital Region Health System
901 Harry S. Truman Drive
Largo, Maryland 20774

May 12, 2022
Date

RE: University of Maryland Capital Region Medical Center
Addition of 16 MSGA Beds

EM-H22-16-043
Docket No.

DESCRIPTION OF EMERGENCY PROJECT

This Emergency Certificate of Need authorizes Dimensions Health Corporation d/b/a University of Maryland Capital Region Medical Center (UM Capital Region Medical Center) to establish additional bed capacity, on a temporary basis, by converting 16 of its 20 observation beds located on the first level of the hospital located at 901 Harry S. Truman Drive North, in Largo (Prince George's County), Maryland (the Site) to medical/surgical/gynecological/addictions (MSGA) beds. The MSGA beds may be used as general medical/surgical beds or intensive care unit beds.

By issuance of a previous Emergency Certificate of Need Order, dated April 24, 2020 (Docket No. H20-16-032), the Maryland Health Care Commission (MHCC) approved a 16-bed addition to UM Prince George's Hospital Center (PGHC) through installation of two temporary modular care units. On March 26, 2022, MHCC's Executive Director issued an Emergency Certificate of Need Order (Docket No. EM-HSS-16-042) authorizing UM Capital Region Medical Center to relocate the modular care units to its campus, which replaced PGHC in 2021, for use as 16 MSGA beds. MHCC did not confirm the March 26, 2022 Emergency Certificate of Need at its April Commission meeting¹ and therefore the Order has lapsed and is no longer in effect.

Currently, fifteen of the 20 observation unit spaces at UM Capital Region Medical Center are being utilized for ancillary medical clinic space and only five rooms in the unit are being used as observation rooms. The medical clinics will be relocated to the modular units that are now located adjacent to the hospital building. Sixteen (16) rooms in the observation unit will be converted for MSGA use and four rooms will remain for observation. Any overflow observation will be handled in space designed to function as a pre-operative unit that is currently, as indicated by the applicant, available as observation unit space.

¹ On April 19, 2022, UM Capital Region Health notified MHCC that it determined that it could not use the modular units for MSGA bed capacity because they did not include shower facilities.

The cost of the project will not exceed the hospital capital threshold requiring a Certificate of Need from the Maryland Health Care Commission under Maryland Code Annotated, Health-General Article § 19-120(a)(4). The cost of converting the observation bed space to use for 16 MSGA beds, estimated to be \$100,000, is minimal because the unit was originally built for overnight stays. The State of Maryland paid the capital costs associated with the modular care units, and it is continuing to provide the units for use by UM Capital Region Medical Center. The modular care units will be returned to the State after UM Capital Region Medical Center no longer needs them to address the existing health crisis. The cost incurred by UM Capital Region Medical Center to operationalize the modular units for medical clinics will be minimal as they included all needed equipment for patient care.

ORDER

Upon consideration of UM Capital Region Medical Center's request, suitably detailed information provided by the Office of Health Care Quality (OHCQ) and others, and consultation with the Chairman of MHCC, Ben Steffen, MHCC Executive Director, determined that the lack of sufficient inpatient bed capacity at Maryland general hospitals resulting from COVID-19 presents emergency circumstances posing a threat to public health under Maryland Code Annotated, Health-General Article § 19-126(c)(1) and a hazard to patients and/or employees, as provided in COMAR 10.24.01.20A.

Therefore, it is, on May 12, 2022, ordered by the Executive Director that an Emergency Certificate of Need issue for the project. It is further ordered that the requirement in COMAR 10.24.01.20C that UM Capital Region Medical Center file an application for Certificate of Need for the inpatient beds established in this Emergency Certificate of Need is suspended by the Executive Director pursuant to COMAR 10.24.01.10A(2) until at least 30 days after April 30, 2023, in accordance with the vote of the Maryland Health Care Commission at its March 17, 2022 public meeting to extend the term of emergency hospital Certificates of Need required to preserve the infrastructure already implemented in Maryland to address the COVID pandemic into 2022 and 2023.

Approvals by Maryland Department of Health

This Emergency Certificate of Need does not constitute a license or replace any approvals for other aspects of the project that are required by OHCQ or other divisions of the Maryland Department of Health to operate inpatient bed capacity at the Site.

Further Action

This Emergency Certificate of Need will be considered for confirmation by the Maryland Health Care Commission at its next scheduled meeting on May 19, 2022, or at an earlier date of which the hospital will be notified. This Emergency Certificate of Need shall remain in effect until April 30, 2023, but may be extended beyond that date for good cause shown.

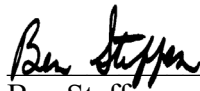
CONDITION OF EMERGENCY CERTIFICATE OF NEED

Because it is important that the Maryland Health Care Commission and the Office of Health Care Quality know when the MSGA inpatient unit beds approved in this Emergency Certificate of Need are available for patients, it is further

ORDERED that UM Capital Region Medical Center shall advise MHCC staff and OHCQ staff when the beds become operational at the Site, disclosing: (1) the number of beds in this Emergency CON that become available for patients; and (2) the date the beds become available. The hospital shall: notify MHCC staff by sending an email with this information to ruby.potter@maryland.gov; and notify OHCQ staff of this temporary increase in its licensed bed capacity by completing OHCQ's Application for Temporary Adjustment of Hospital Beds, which is located at:

<https://app.smartsheet.com/b/form/c7e6598943c84dd2ba9e39859a9f3383>.

MARYLAND HEALTH CARE COMMISSION



Ben Steffen
Executive Director

cc: Dennis R. Schrader, Secretary, Maryland Department of Health
Patricia T. Nay, M.D., Executive Director, Office of Health Care Quality
Renee Webster, Deputy Director, Federal Programs, Office of Health Care Quality
Katie Wunderlich, Executive Director, HSCRC
Ernest L. Carter, M.D., Ph.D., Health Officer, Prince George's County