



Office of Health Care Access Certificate of Need Application

Final Decision

Applicant: Saint Francis Hospital and Medical Center

Docket Number: 06-30751-WVR

Project Title: Request to Waive CON Requirements for the Replacement of Saint Francis Hospital and Medical Center's Angiography Equipment

Statutory Reference: Section 19a-639c of the Connecticut General Statutes

Filing Date: May 18, 2006

Hearing: Waived

Decision Date: May 23, 2006

Staff Assigned: Laurie K. Greci

Project Description: Saint Francis Hospital and Medical Center ("Hospital") requests a waiver of Certificate of Need ("CON") requirements to replace equipment in one of its two existing angiography interventional suites, at a total capital expenditure of \$2,184,491.

Nature of Proceedings: On May 18, 2006, the Office of Health Care Access ("OHCA") received the waiver of CON requirements request to replace equipment in one of its two existing angiography interventional suites, at a total capital expenditure of \$2,184,491. The Hospital is a health care facility or institution as defined in Section 19a-630 of the Connecticut General Statutes ("C.G.S.").

OHCA's authority to review and approve, modify or deny the requested waiver of CON requirements for replacement equipment is established by Section 19a-639c, C.G.S. The provisions of this section as well as the principles and guidelines set forth in Section 19a-637, C.G.S., were fully considered by OHCA in its review.

Findings of Fact

1. Saint Francis Hospital and Medical Center (“Hospital”) is an acute care general hospital located at 114 Woodland Street in Hartford, Connecticut. *(May 18, 2006, Letter of Intent/Waiver Form 2030, page 9)*
2. The Hospital is requesting a waiver of Certificate of Need (“CON”) requirements for replacement equipment pursuant to Section 19a-639c of the Connecticut General Statutes (“C.G.S.”) to replace equipment in one of its two existing angiography interventional suites, at a total capital expenditure of \$2,184,491. *(May 18, 2006, Letter of Intent/Waiver Form 2030, page 3)*
3. On June 9, 1995, the Hospital received CON authorization from the Commission on Hospitals and Health Care (“CHHC”), predecessor agency to the Office of Health Care Access (“OHCA”), under Docket Number 95-523 for the replacement of equipment in one of the existing angiography interventional suites, at a capital expenditure of \$1,449,000. *(June 9, 1995, Final Decision for Docket Number 95-523)*
4. The Hospital proposes to replace the equipment in one of its existing angiography interventional suites with a state-of-the-art Siemens Axion Artis dBA Detector System, a biplane angiography system with digital subtraction techniques for diagnostics and interventional procedures of arteriosclerotic diseases. Construction upgrades to the angiography suite are included in the Hospital’s proposal. *(May 18, 2006, Letter of Intent Waiver Form 2030, page 3)*
5. The Hospital states that the current angiography system can no longer support the clinical demands placed upon it for the following reasons:
 - The system is not digital and cannot integrate with the Hospital’s PACS system;
 - Repeated service calls have been required in the past year and replacement parts are increasingly difficult to obtain resulting in downtime;
 - Image quality from the system has deteriorated;
 - Dose reduction options, standard on contemporary equipment, are not available and limit the utility of the system for lengthy interventions; and
 - The unit’s large monitors and dated image tube construction complicate access to the patient.*(May 18, 2006, Letter of Intent Waiver Form 2030, page 10)*
6. The Hospital stated that the replacement equipment will allow the Hospital to provide brain, neck, and spine interventional angiography service in an optimal environment using biplane imaging having full digital capabilities. *(May 18, 2006, Letter of Intent Waiver Form 2030, page 10)*
7. The total capital expenditure for the replacement angiography system is \$2,184,491 which includes \$1,980,776 for the replacement system and \$203,715 for renovations to the angiography suite. *(May 18, 2006, Letter of Intent/Waiver Form 2030, page 3)*

8. The Hospital will fund the replacement proposal's total capital expenditure of \$2,184,491 with an equity contribution. *(May 18, 2006, Letter of Intent/Waiver Form 2030, page 4)*
9. The replacement expenditure of \$1,980,776 for the angiography equipment is below the \$2,000,000 threshold for determining eligibility for a waiver of CON requirements pursuant to Section 19a-639c, C.G.S. *(May 18, 2006, Letter of Intent/Waiver Form 2030, page 4)*
10. The replacement expenditure of \$1,980,776 for the Siemens Axion Artis dBA Detector System is less than the original cost of the equipment to be replaced, plus an increase of ten percent for each twelve-month period that has elapsed since OHCA's original CON authorization on June 5, 1995 under Docket Number 95-523. *(May 18, 2006, Letter of Intent/Waiver Form 2030, page 5)*
11. The Hospital anticipates commencing the replacement equipment project upon OHCA Approval. *(May 18, 2006, Letter of Intent/Waiver Form 2030, Page 2)*

Rationale

Saint Francis Hospital and Medical Center (“Hospital”) is requesting a waiver of Certificate of Need (“CON”) requirements for replacement equipment pursuant to Section 19a-639c of the Connecticut General Statutes (“C.G.S.”) to replace the angiography equipment in one of its two existing interventional suites, at a total capital expenditure of \$2,184,491. On June 5, 1995, the Hospital received CON authorization from the Commission on Hospitals and Health Care (“CHHC”), predecessor agency to the Office of Health Care Access (“OHCA”), under Docket Number 95-523 for the replacement of equipment in one of the existing angiography interventional suites, at a capital expenditure of \$1,449,000.

The Hospital proposes to replace the angiography equipment in the other existing interventional suite with a state-of-the-art Siemens Axion Artis dBA biplane angiography system. Renovations to the angiography suite are also included in the Hospital’s proposal. The proposed equipment is a biplane angiography system with digital subtraction techniques for diagnostic and interventional procedures of arteriosclerotic diseases. The Hospital stated that the existing angiography system has been subject to multiple breakdowns and replacement parts are becoming more difficult to obtain. The Hospital’s replacement proposal is based on the outdated technology of the unit: it is not digital and cannot integrate with the Hospital’s PACS system; the image quality has deteriorated; dose reduction options limit the utility of the system for length interventions; and the unit’s design complicates access to the patients.

The total capital expenditure for the replacement angiography system is \$2,184,491 which includes \$1,980,776 for the replacement system and \$203,715 for renovations to the suite. The Hospital will fund the proposal’s total capital expenditure of \$2,184,491 through an equity contribution.

The replacement expenditure of \$1,980,776 is below the \$2,000,000 threshold for determining eligibility for a waiver of CON requirements for replacement equipment pursuant to Section 19a-639c, C.G.S. Furthermore, the replacement expenditure of \$1,980,787 for the Siemens Axion Artis dBA System is less than the original cost of the equipment to be replaced, plus an increase of ten percent for each twelve-month period that has elapsed since OHCA’s original CON authorization on June 5, 1995 under Docket Number 95-253.

Based on the foregoing Findings and Rationale, OHCA has determined that Saint Francis Hospital and Medical Center’s request for a waiver of CON requirements for replacement equipment to replace equipment in one of its angiography interventional suites at 114 Woodland Street in Hartford, Connecticut, at a total capital expenditure of \$2,184,491, meets the requirements for waiver of the CON process pursuant to Section 19a-639c, C.G.S., and is hereby GRANTED.

Order

Saint Francis Hospital and Medical Center (“Hospital”) is hereby authorized to replace equipment in one of its two existing angiography interventional suites at 114 Woodland Avenue in Hartford, Connecticut, at a total capital expenditure of \$2,184,491, subject to the following conditions:

1. This authorization shall expire on May 23, 2008. Should the Hospital’s Angiography System replacement project not be completed by that date, the Hospital must seek further approval from OHCA to complete the project beyond that date.
2. The Hospital shall not exceed the approved total capital expenditure of \$2,184,776. In the event that the Hospital learns of potential cost increases or expects that final project costs will exceed those approved, the Hospital shall file with OHCA a request for approval of the revised CON project budget.
3. This authorization requires the removal of the Hospital’s existing angiography system for certain disposition, such as sale or salvage, outside of and unrelated to the Hospital’s various service provider locations. Furthermore, the Hospital will provide evidence to OHCA of the disposition of the existing angiography system being replaced by no later than six months after the replacement angiography system has become operational.

All of the foregoing constitutes the final order of the Office of Health Care Access in this matter.

By Order of the
Office of Health Care Access

May 23, 2006

Signed by Cristine A. Vogel
Commissioner

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