

STATE OF CONNECTICUT
OFFICE OF HEALTH CARE ACCESS

M. JODI RELL
GOVERNOR

CRISTINE A. VOGEL
COMMISSIONER

May 11, 2009

IN THE MATTER OF:

A Request for Waiver of Certificate of Need
Requirements for Replacement Equipment
filed pursuant to Section 19a-639c, C.G.S.
by

Notice of Final Decision
Office of Health Care Access
Docket Number: 09-31368-WVR

The Hospital of Central Connecticut

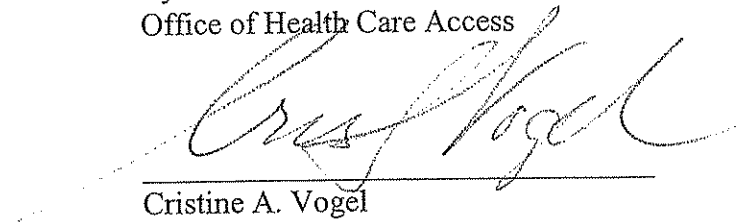
**Request to Waive CON Requirements for
the Replacement of an Existing 4-Slice
CT Scanner with a 32-Slice CT Scanner
in New Britain**

To: Claudio Capone
Director, Strategic Business Planning
The Hospital of Central Connecticut
100 Grand Street
New Britain, Connecticut 06052

Dear Mr. Capone:

This letter will serve as notice of the Final Decision of the Office of Health Care Access in the above matter as provided by Section 19a-639c, C.G.S. On May 11, 2009, the Final Decision was rendered as the finding and order of the Office of Health Care Access. A copy of the Final Decision is attached hereto for your information.

By Order of the
Office of Health Care Access



Cristine A. Vogel
Commissioner

CAV: jah



Office of Health Care Access Certificate of Need Application

Final Decision

Applicant: The Hospital of Central Connecticut

Docket Number: 09-31368-WVR

Project Title: Request to Waive CON Requirements for the Replacement of an Existing 4-Slice CT Scanner with a 32-Slice CT Scanner in New Britain

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

Filing Date: May 5, 2009

Decision Date: May 11, 2009

Staff: Jack A. Huber

Project Description: The Hospital of Central Connecticut requests a waiver of Certificate of Need requirements for replacement equipment for the purpose of replacing its existing 4-slice CT scanner with a 32-slice CT scanner, at a total capital expenditure is \$640,350.

Nature of Proceedings: On May 5, 2009, the Office of Health Care Access ("OHCA") received the completed waiver of Certificate of Need ("CON") request for replacement equipment from The Hospital of Central Connecticut ("Hospital"). The Hospital proposes to replace its existing 4-slice CT scanner with a 32-slice CT scanner, at a total capital expenditure of \$640,350. 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, of the 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. The Hospital of Central Connecticut (“Hospital”) is an acute care general hospital that operates two campuses:
 - One campus is located at 100 Grand Street in New Britain and is formerly known as the New Britain General Hospital; and
 - The other campus is located at 81 Meriden Avenue in Southington and is formerly known as Bradley Memorial Hospital and Health Care Facility.
(May 5, 2009, CON Waiver Form 2040, page 1 and March 24, 2005, Agreed Settlement under Docket Number: 05-30280, Consolidating the Operations of the two Hospitals under a Single Hospital License)
2. On April 29, 1986, in an Agreed Settlement rendered under Docket Number: 86-502, the New Britain General Hospital received Certificate of Need (“CON”) authorization from the Commission on Hospitals and Healthcare, the predecessor to the Office of Health Care Access (“OHCA”) to acquire a whole-body GE 9800 computed tomography (“CT”) scanner. *(April 29, 1986, Agreed Settlement, Docket Number: 86-502 and May 5, 2009, CON Waiver Form 2040, page 2)*
3. On July 1, 2001, in a Final Decision rendered under Docket Number: 01-1505, the New Britain General Hospital received CON authorization from OHCA to replace its existing GE 9800 CT scanner with a GE Lightspeed, 4-slice CT scanner. The replacement scanner met the requirements for waiver of CON requirements pursuant to Section 19a-639c of the Connecticut General Statutes (“C.G.S.”). *(July 1, 2001, Final Decision, Docket Number: 01-1505 and May 5, 2009, CON Waiver Form 2040, Exhibit A)*
4. The GE Lightspeed, 4-slice CT scanner, acquired in the CON approval under Docket Number: 01-1505, was installed and operated for a period of six years in the New Britain General Hospital Radiology Department. This CT scanner was moved to the Emergency Department (“ED”) at the New Britain General Campus in 2007, as part of the Hospital for Central Connecticut’s acquisition of the OHCA approved PET/CT scanner. *(May 5, 2009, CON Waiver Form 2040, Cover Letter)*
5. The Hospital is requesting a waiver of CON requirements for the purpose of replacing the ED’s existing GE 4-slice CT scanner at the New Britain General Campus. The Hospital proposes to acquire and operate a GE Lightspeed VCT Select, 32-slice CT scanner as its replacement equipment. *(May 5, 2009, CON Waiver Form 2040, pages 2 & 3 and Appendix B, Equipment Quotation)*
6. Pursuant to Section 19a-639c, C.G.S, a proposal may be eligible for a waiver of replacement equipment from the CON process when a provider has previously received CON authorization from OHCA for the equipment to be replaced and when the expenditure or value of the replacement equipment will not exceed \$3 million. *(Section 19a-639c, C.G.S.)*

7. The Hospital states that the replacement 32-slice CT scanner will provide the following benefits over the existing equipment:
 - The scanner will perform 4 times faster and contain double the anatomical information, providing for improved patient comfort and increased image resolution;
 - The field of view will be increased from 48 to 50 centimeters, which will allow for more anatomy to be displayed for the larger patients;
 - Thinner CT slices and no motion artifact will result in higher image resolution;
 - Patient safety will improve as critically ill ED patients and those ED patients requiring special services will no longer have to be transported to the main Radiology Department;
 - The scheduling of outpatient CT exams and physician office add-on appointments will be better accommodated in the main Radiology Department; and
 - The CT table's patient weight limit will increase to 500 pounds.
(May 5, 2009, CON Waiver Form 2040, page 5)
8. The total capital expenditure for the project is \$640,350 and is itemized as follows:
 - \$622,850 for the purchase of the replacement CT scanner;
 - \$17,500 for the renovation work associated with the installation of the new CT scanner.
(May 5, 2009, CON Waiver Form 2040, page 3)
9. The Hospital provided a quotation dated, March 20, 2009, which identifies the CT scanner system components and specifications and verifies the cost attributable to the acquisition of the proposed CT scanner. *(May 5, 2009, CON Waiver Form 2040, page 3)*
10. The replacement equipment project will be financed through the Hospital's equity funds. *(May 5, 2009, CON Waiver Form 2040, page 3)*
11. The replacement equipment's capital expenditure is below the \$3 million threshold used to determine whether a request is eligible to receive a waiver of CON requirements for replacement equipment pursuant to Section 19a-639c, C.G.S. *(May 5, 2009, CON Waiver Form 2040, pages 2 and 3)*
12. The Hospital intends to have the replacement CT scanner operational by October 1, 2009. *(May, 2009, CON Waiver Form 2040, page 2)*
13. The replacement CT scanner will serve the existing Emergency Department's patient population seeking services at the Hospital's New Britain General Campus. *(May 5, 2009, CON Waiver Form 2040, page 5)*

Rationale

The Hospital for Central Connecticut ("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."). The Hospital is seeking to replace its existing 4-slice computed tomography ("CT") scanner with a 32-slice CT scanner.

The Hospital is requesting the equipment replacement in order to reduce service downtime, improve imaging resolution, and improve patient safety by accommodating critically ill Emergency Department ("ED") patients and those requiring aortic dissections, pulmonary embolus and CT angiography by receiving their CT imaging services in the Emergency Department, instead of the Hospital's main Radiology Department.

The replacement 32-slice CT scanner will perform 4 times faster with no motion artifact and contain double the anatomical information as compared to the current 4-slice CT scanner. The replacement 32-slice CT scanner will provide for improved patient comfort and increased image resolution. Patient safety will also improve as critically ill ED patients and those ED patients requiring special services will no longer have to be transported to the main Radiology Department. Lastly, the scheduling of outpatient CT exams and physician office add-on appointments will be better accommodated in the main Radiology Department.

The capital expenditure associated with the proposed replacement equipment is \$622,850, which is below the \$3 million threshold for determining eligibility for a waiver of CON requirements for replacement equipment, pursuant to Section 19a-639c, C.G.S. The Hospital's equity funds will be used to finance the replacement equipment project.

Order

Based on the foregoing Findings and Rationale, the Office of Health Care Access ("OHCA") has determined that The Hospital of Central Connecticut's ("Hospital's") request for a waiver of Certificate of Need ("CON") requirements for replacement equipment in order to replace a 4-slice computed tomography ("CT") scanner with a 32-slice CT scanner, at a replacement equipment expenditure of \$622,850, meets the requirements for waiver of the CON process pursuant to Section 19a-639c, C.G.S.; and is hereby **approved**, subject to the following conditions.

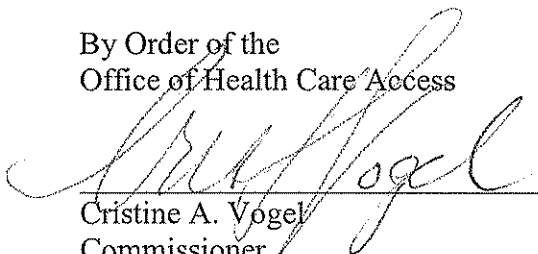
1. This authorization shall expire on June 1, 2010. Should the Hospital's replacement equipment project not be completed by that date, the Hospital must seek further approval from OHCA to complete the project beyond that date.
2. The Hospital shall not exceed \$3 million in its replacement equipment expenditure for the 32-slice CT scanner. In the event that the Hospital learns of potential cost increases or expects that the replacement equipment expenditure will exceed \$3 million, the Hospital shall notify OHCA in writing.
3. With respect to the acquisition of the new CT scanner, the Hospital shall notify OHCA regarding the following information in writing prior to the June 1, 2010, CON expiration date:
 - a) The name of the CT scanner manufacturer;
 - b) The model name and description of the CT scanner; and
 - c) The initial date of the operation of the CT scanner.
4. This authorization requires the removal of the Hospital's existing CT scanner for certain disposition, such as sale or salvage, outside of and unrelated to the Hospital's Connecticut service locations. Furthermore, the Hospital shall provide evidence to OHCA of the disposition of the existing 4-slice CT scanner to be replaced by no later than six months after the replacement 32-slice CT scanner has become operational.
5. Should the Hospital propose any change in CT scanning services, the Hospital shall file with OHCA a Certificate of Need Determination Request regarding the proposed service change.

Should the Hospital fail to comply with any of the aforementioned conditions, OHCA reserves the right to take additional action as authorized by law. All of the foregoing constitutes the final order of the Office of Health Care Access in this matter.

Date

5-11-09

By Order of the
Office of Health Care Access



Cristine A. Vogel
Commissioner

CAV:jah