



STATE OF CONNECTICUT
DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC HEALTH
Office of Health Care Access

April 15, 2010

Chris Hartley
Senior Vice President Planning and Facilities Development
Saint Francis Hospital and Medical Center
114 Woodland Street
Hartford, CT 06105-1299

RE: Certificate of Need Waiver of Replacement Equipment Request
Docket Number: 10-31579-WVR
Saint Francis Hospital and Medical Center
Replacement of an Existing Nuclear Medicine SPECT Camera
with a SPECT/CT Camera in Hartford

Dear Mr. Hartley:

On March 30, 2010, the Office of Health Care Access ("OHCA") received a Certificate of Need ("CON") Waiver of Replacement Equipment Request from Saint Francis Hospital and Medical Center ("Hospital") for the purpose of replacing an existing nuclear medicine SPECT camera with a SPECT/CT camera in Hartford.

Please be advised that OHCA has reviewed the information contained in your request and makes the following findings:

1. Saint Francis Hospital and Medical Center ("Hospital") is an acute care hospital located at 114 Woodland Street in Hartford, Connecticut. (*March 30, 2010, CON Waiver Form 2040, page 1*)
2. On September 16, 1997, the Hospital acquired a nuclear medicine SPECT camera ("SPECT camera"). (*March 30, 2010, CON Waiver Form 2040, page 2*)
3. The Hospital contends that it did not seek a Certificate of Need ("CON") determination as to whether a CON was required for the Hospital to acquire the SPECT camera as the \$354,000 cost of the camera was below the \$400,000 capital threshold for imaging equipment in place during 1997. (*March 30, 2010, CON Waiver Form 2040, page 2*)
4. The Hospital is requesting a waiver of CON requirements for the purpose of replacing its existing SPECT camera with a SPECT/CT camera. (*March 30, 2010, CON Waiver Form 2040, page 2*)

5. Pursuant to Section 19a-639c of the Connecticut General Statutes ("C.G.S") as amended by Public Act: 09-232, Section 96, a proposal may be eligible for a waiver of replacement equipment from the CON process:
 - a. When a provider previously received a CON for the equipment to be replaced, and the expenditure or value of the replacement equipment is less than \$3 million; or
 - b. When a provider previously obtained a determination that a CON was not required for the original acquisition of the equipment and the expenditure or value of the replacement equipment is less than \$3 million.
(Section 19a-639c, C.G.S., as amended by Public Act: 09-232, Section 96)
6. The Hospital proposes to acquire and operate a Siemens Symbia T Series 6-slice SPECT/CT camera as its replacement equipment and intends to locate the equipment at the Hospital. *(March 30, 2010, CON Waiver Form 2040, page 2 and Attachment 1)*
7. The capital cost of the 6-slice SPECT/CT replacement camera is \$614,000. *(March 30, 2010, CON Waiver Form 2040, page 2 and Attachment 1)*

Based on the above, the Hospital's proposal to replace an existing nuclear medicine SPECT camera in Hartford with a 6-slice SPECT/CT camera is not eligible for a CON Waiver of Replacement Equipment as the Hospital did not receive a CON authorization or obtain a determination that a CON was not required for the acquisition of the imaging equipment, pursuant to Section 19a-639c of the Connecticut General Statutes ("C.G.S") as amended by Public Act: 09-232, Section 96. Consequently, the current proposal requires CON approval pursuant to Section 19a-639 of the C.G.S. The Hospital may file a Letter of Intent with OHCA to request the initiation of the Certificate of Need process.

If you have any questions regarding the above, please contact Kimberly Martone, Director of Operations, at (860) 418-7029.

Sincerely,



Cristine A. Vogel
Commissioner

CAV: jah