



STATE OF CONNECTICUT
OFFICE OF HEALTH CARE ACCESS

M. JODI RELL
GOVERNOR

CRISTINE A. VOGEL
COMMISSIONER

January 4, 2006

Patrick Charmel
President/CEO
Griffin Hospital
130 Division Street
Derby, CT 06418

RE: Certificate of Need Determination; Report Number: 05-30621-EXM
Griffin Hospital
Proposal to Acquire and Install a Picture Archiving Communications Systems

Dear Mr. Charmel:

On October 31, 2005, the Office of Health Care Access ("OHCA") received your request to acquire and install a picture archiving communications systems, pursuant to Public Act 05-168, which amends Section 19a-639a of the Connecticut General Statutes. OHCA has reviewed the information contained in your request and makes the following findings:

1. Griffin Hospital ("Hospital") is an acute care, general hospital located at 130 Division Street in Derby, Connecticut.
2. The Hospital is a health care facility or institution as defined by Section 19a-630 of the Connecticut General Statutes ("C.G.S.").
3. The Hospital is proposing to acquire and install a picture archiving communications systems ("PACS") as a replacement to its film based storage system.
4. A PACS is a medical image management system designed to store, retrieve, distribute and display medical images in a digital format.
5. An electronic medical record consists of an array of specific applications. A picture archiving communications system containing medical images is one component of an electronic medical record.

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6. Public Act: 05-168 amends Section 19a-639a of the C.G.S. by adding subsection (c) which reads as follows:

“The Office of Health Care Access shall, in its discretion; exempt from certificate of need review pursuant to sections 19a-638 and 19a-639 any health care facility or institution that proposes to purchase or operate an electronic medical records system on or after October 1, 2005.”

7. The acquisition and installation of a PACS will enable the Hospital to meet its clinical imaging needs for the next several years.
8. While mammography will continue to utilize the film-based technology, all other Hospital radiography equipment has or will soon operate in a digitalized format.
9. The project will result in no change or impact to the Hospital’s patient population or payments from third party payers.
10. The total capital expenditure for the acquisition and installation of the PACS is \$836,000.
11. The Hospital proposes to fund the acquisition through its operating funds.
12. The start date for the project is January, 2006.

Based on these findings, OHCA has determined that the Hospital’s proposal meets the requirements of Public Act: 05-168, which amends Section 19a-639a of the Connecticut General Statutes and that Certificate of Need approval is not required for Griffin Hospital to acquire and install a picture archiving communications systems. Therefore, it will not be necessary for you to obtain further permission from OHCA in order to proceed with the proposed acquisition.

Thank you for keeping OHCA informed of your plans regarding this proposal. If you have any questions regarding this letter, please contact Jack A. Huber, OHCA Health Care Analyst, of the Certification, Financial Analysis and Forecasting Unit, at (860) 418-7034.

Sincerely,

Signed by Cristine A. Vogel
Commissioner

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