



## Office of Health Care Access Certificate of Need Application

### Final Decision

**Applicant:** Saint Vincent's Medical Center

**Docket Number:** 05-30577-WVR

**Project Title:** Request to Waive CON Requirements for the Replacement of an existing Cardiac Catheterization Laboratory's Equipment

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

**Filing Date:** August 19, 2005

**Hearing:** Waived

**Decision Date:** September 1, 2005

**Staff Assigned:** Tillman Foster

**Project Description:** Saint Vincent's Medical Center ("Hospital") requests a waiver of Certificate of Need ("CON") requirements for replacement equipment in order to replace equipment in an existing Cardiac Catheterization Laboratory at a total capital expenditure of \$1,843,980. The Hospital will replace equipment in an existing Cardiac Catheterization Laboratory with the proposed installation of a GE Cardiac/Angio Catheterization Laboratory System, GE Mobile Catheterization Laboratory and GE Hemodynamic Monitoring System (MAC) Upgrade at 2800 Main Street in Bridgeport, Connecticut.

**Nature of Proceedings:** On August 19, 2005, the Office of Health Care Access ("OHCA") received the waiver of CON requirements request for replacement equipment from Saint Vincent's Medical Center to replace equipment in an existing Cardiac Catheterization Laboratory at 2800 Main Street in Bridgeport, Connecticut, at a total capital expenditure of \$1,843,980. 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. On January 21, 1994, Saint Vincent's Medical Center ("Hospital") received Certificate of Need ("CON") authorization from the Office of Health Care Access ("OHCA") under Docket Number 93-566 for the replacement of equipment in an existing Cardiac Catheterization Laboratory at a total capital expenditure of \$895,240. *(January 21, 1994, OHCA Agreed Settlement, Saint Vincent's Medical Center, Docket Number 93-566)*
2. The Hospital is requesting a waiver of CON requirements for replacement equipment pursuant to Section 19a-639c of the Connecticut General Statutes ("C.G.S.") to replace equipment in an existing Cardiac Catheterization Laboratory, at a total capital expenditure of \$1,843,980, which originally received CON authorization from OHCA under Docket Number 93-566. *(August 19, 2005 Letter of Intent/Waiver Form 2030, Page 3)*
3. The Hospital plans to install a GE Cardiac/Angio Catheterization Laboratory System, a GE Mobile Catheterization Laboratory and a GE Hemodynamic Monitoring System (MAC) as its replacement Cardiac Catheterization Laboratory Equipment. *(August 19, 2005 Supplemental CON Waiver Request Filing, Vendor Quote)*
4. The Hospital stated that the current equipment's image quality is not adequate and it also does not offer capabilities to perform catheterization and angioplasty of peripheral vessels. *(August 19, 2005 Letter of Intent/Waiver Form 2030, Project Description)*
5. The Hospital stated that the benefit of this new equipment will be improved image quality which will reduce procedure time and improve overall quality of patient care. The new equipment will also be compatible with the Hospital's Information System for storage and retrieval of results. *(August 19, 2005 Letter of Intent/Waiver Form 2030, Project Description)*
6. The total capital expenditure for the proposal is \$1,843,980 which includes \$1,633,980 for the purchase of the Cardiac Catheterization Laboratory Equipment and \$125,000 for building renovations. *(August 19, 2005 Letter of Intent/Waiver Form 2030, Page 3)*
7. The Hospital will fund the total capital expenditure of \$1,843,980 for the replacement equipment proposal entirely through funded depreciation. *(August 19, 2005 Letter of Intent/Waiver Form 2030, Page 4)*
8. The total capital expenditure of \$1,843,980 for the replacement equipment proposal 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. (*August 19, 2005 Letter of Intent/Waiver Form 2030, Page 5*)

9. The total capital expenditure of \$1,843,980 for the replacement equipment proposal 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 date of January 21, 1994 under Docket Number 93-566. (*August 19, 2005 Letter of Intent/Waiver Form 2030, Page 5*)

## **Rationale**

Saint Vincent's 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 existing Cardiac Catheterization Laboratory Equipment, at a total capital expenditure of \$1,843,980. On January 21, 1994, the Hospital originally received CON authorization from the Office of Health Care Access ("OHCA") under Docket Number 93-566 for the replacement of existing Cardiac Catheterization Laboratory Equipment, at a total capital expenditure of \$895,240.

The Hospital plans to install a GE Cardiac/Angio Catheterization Laboratory System, a GE Mobile Catheterization Laboratory and a GE Hemodynamic Monitoring System (MAC) as its replacement for its Cardiac Catheterization Laboratory Equipment. The Hospital's current equipment's image quality is not adequate and it also does not offer capabilities to perform catheterization and angioplasty of peripheral vessels. The benefit of this new equipment will be improved image quality which will reduce procedure time and improve overall quality of patient care. The new equipment will also be compatible with the Hospital's Information System for storage and retrieval of results.

The total capital expenditure for the replacement of one of its Cardiac Catheterization Laboratory's Equipment is \$1,843,980, which includes \$1,633,980 for the purchase of a replacement Cardiac Catheterization Laboratory and \$125,000 for building renovations. The Hospital will fund the total capital expenditure of \$1,843,980 for the replacement equipment proposal entirely through funded depreciation.

The total capital expenditure of \$1,843,980 for the replacement equipment proposal 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 total capital expenditure of \$1,843,980 for the replacement equipment proposal 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 date of January 21, 1994 under Docket Number 93-566.

Based on the foregoing Findings and Rationale, OHCA has determined that Saint Vincent's Medical Center's request for a waiver of CON requirements for replacement equipment to replace equipment in an existing Cardiac Catheterization Laboratory at 2800 Main Street in Bridgeport, at a total capital expenditure of \$1,843,980, meets the

requirements for waiver of the CON process pursuant to Section 19a-639c, C.G.S., and is hereby GRANTED.

## **Order**

Saint Vincent's Medical Center ("Hospital") is hereby authorized to replace equipment in an existing Cardiac Catheterization Laboratory with a GE Cardiac/Angio Catheterization Laboratory System, GE Mobile Catheterization Laboratory and GE Hemodynamic Monitoring System at 2800 Main Street in Bridgeport, at a total capital expenditure of \$1,843,980, subject to the following conditions:

1. This authorization shall expire on August 31, 2006. Should the Hospital's Cardiac Catheterization Laboratory's Equipment 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 \$1,843,980. 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 Cardiac Catheterization Laboratory Equipment for certain disposition, such as sale or salvage, outside of and unrelated to the Hospital's various service provider locations. Furthermore, the Hospital shall provide evidence to OHCA of the disposition of the existing Cardiac Catheterization Laboratory Equipment to be replaced by no later than six months after the replacement Cardiac Catheterization Laboratory Equipment 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

September 1, 2005

Signed by Cristine A. Vogel  
Commissioner

CAV:tf