

March 8, 2002

Margie Guglin
Corporate Director
Planning & Network Development
St. Vincent's Medical Center
2800 Main Street
Bridgeport, Connecticut 06606

Re: Final Decision, Docket Number 02-1502
St. Vincent's Medical Center
Request to Waive CON Requirements for Replacement of Cardiac Catheterization
Laboratory in Accordance with Section 19a-639c, C.G.S.

Dear Ms. Guglin:

On March 6, 2002, the Office of Health Care Access ("OHCA") received your letter requesting a waiver of the Certificate of Need ("CON") process in accordance with Section 19a-639c of the Connecticut General Statutes ("C.G.S."). St. Vincent's Medical Center ("SVMC") is proposing to replace one of its two existing cardiac catheterization laboratories at a projected capital expenditure of \$1,745,100.

Please be advised that OHCA has reviewed the information submitted and makes the following findings regarding the request:

1. On October 25, 1988, under Docket Number 85-535, SVMC was authorized to purchase a cardiac catheterization laboratory at a capital expenditure of \$1,982,129.
2. SVMC has two cardiac catheterization laboratories; one is twelve years old, the other is eight years old. SVMC is seeking to replace the twelve-year-old laboratory due to mechanical problems and difficulties locating parts for the equipment.

3. SVMC is proposing to replace the cardiac catheterization laboratory authorized under Docket Number 85-535 with a General Electric Innova at a cost of \$1,041,300. The total projected capital expenditure for the replacement cardiac catheterization laboratory is \$1,745,100, which includes digital archiving equipment.
4. SVMC proposes to use the cardiac catheterization laboratory authorized under Docket Number 85-535 for electrophysiology studies and as a back-up cardiac catheterization laboratory during the installation of the proposed new equipment. This will result in the operation of three cardiac catheterization laboratories on a temporary basis.
5. SVMC also will be seeking CON authorization from OHCA for a Master Facility Project.
6. SVMC is proposing to operate all three cardiac catheterization laboratories until the completion of the Master Facility project in 2004. SVMC believes that this will provide necessary back up and prevent the need to request emergency replacement of the second cardiac catheterization laboratory prior to the completion of the Master Facility project.
7. The cost of \$1,745,100 is below the maximum allowable replacement expenditure established in Section 19a-639c, C.G.S.
8. The proposed expenditure for the proposed replacement cardiac catheterization laboratory is not more than the original cost, plus an increase of ten percent for each twelve-month period that has elapsed since October 25, 1988.

Based on the above findings, OHCA has determined that the proposed replacement cardiac catheterization laboratory meets the requirements of Section 19a-639c, C.G.S. Consequently, the proposed replacement cardiac catheterization laboratory is approved by OHCA and a CON is granted to SVMC for the replacement cardiac catheterization laboratory.

OHCA also finds that it is necessary for SVMC to operate three cardiac catheterization laboratories on a temporary basis during the start up and testing period of the new equipment. However, OHCA believes that the operation of three cardiac catheterization laboratories until 2004, as proposed by SVMC, represents an expansion of services and requires separate CON authorization under Section 19a-638, C.G.S. Therefore, OHCA concludes that SVMC may operate the cardiac catheterization laboratory approved under 85-535 for 9 months from the date of this authorization (December 8, 2002). At that time SVMC will notify OHCA of the disposal of the existing equipment. If SVMC wishes to continue to use the equipment after this date, CON authorization will be required.

Thank you for informing OHCA of your plans regarding this replacement project. If you have any questions regarding this letter, please contact Steven Lazarus or Laura Jaworski, Health System Development, at (860) 418-7001.

Sincerely,

Signature
Raymond J. Gorman
Commissioner

cc: Rose McLellan, DHSR, DPH

RJG:SL:lj

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