Office of Health Care Access

Modification of Previously Authorized Certificate of Need

Final Decision

Applicant:	**Saint Mary's Hospital, Inc.**
Modification Docket Number:	**06-30384-MDF**
Modification Project Title:	**A Request to modify Docket Number 04-30384-CON, as subsequently modified by Docket Number 05-30384-MDF, to allow for a further extension of the date by which the Hospital must remove the replaced equipment until February 1, 2007.**
Original Project Docket Number and Title	**Docket Number 04-30384-CON, as modified by Docket Number 05-30384-MDF: Replacement of Existing Interventional Radiology Equipment; $1,255,201**
Statutory Reference:	**Sections 4-181a(b), Connecticut General Statutes**
Filing Date:	**December 15, 2006**
Decision Date:	**December 29, 2006**
Staff	**Karen Roberts**

Project Description: Saint Mary's Hospital, Inc. ("Hospital") proposes a modification of the Certificate of Need authorized under Docket Number 04-30384-CON, as subsequently modified by Docket Number 05-30384-MDF, in order to allow a further extension of the date by which the Hospital must remove the replaced interventional radiology equipment, until February 1, 2007.

Findings of Fact

1. On March 14, 2005, under Docket Number 04-30384-CON, the Office of Health Care Access ("OHCA") issued a Certificate of Need ("CON") to Saint Mary's Hospital ("Hospital") for the replacement of existing interventional radiology equipment, at a total capital expenditure of $1,255,201, pursuant to Section 19a-639 of the Connecticut General Statutes.

2. On April 6, 2005, under Docket Number 05-30384-MDF, OHCA issued a modification of the CON in order to revise Condition Number Three, as follows:

    "3.*This authorization requires the removal of the Hospital's existing interventional radiology equipment for certain disposition, such as sale or salvage, outside of and unrelated to the Hospital's various service provider locations. Furthermore, the Hospital will provide evidence to OHCA of the disposition of the existing angiography equipment to be replaced by no later than nine months after the replacement equipment has become operational.*"

3. The Hospital did purchase the specific imaging equipment described in the original CON application; the Shimadzu Medical Systems Angio Speed VC medical imaging system interventional suite and this new equipment has been operational since its installation on February 27, 2006. Nine months from installation would be November 27, 2006. *(Source: Page 1-2 of the December 15, 2006 submission)*

4. On November 20, 2006, OHCA received the Hospital's letter, in which the Hospital requests a modification of the CON in order to further revise Condition Number Three and allow the Hospital to delay the disposal of the existing equipment until February 1, 2007. Additional information was received by OHCA on December 15, 2006.

5. The existing equipment that is to be disposed of is currently only acting as a back up for the new system on any cases that require patient manipulation. Cases that do not require patient manipulation are being performed in the new imaging suite. *(Source: Page 2 of the December 15, 2006 submission)*

6. The Hospital indicated on December 15, 2006, that "*Over the past several weeks, when trying to move the table for patient manipulation, the table malfunctioned. The vendor was called on multiple occasions and replaced several parts in an attempt to rectify the issue*". The Hospital further indicates that "*Part replacement did not eliminate the problem and it was determined by all parties to replace the table.*" *(Source: Page 1 of the December 15, 2006 submission)*

7. The Hospital indicates that the "time to order a table is an estimated 6-8 weeks because the table is manufactured and shipped from Japan. Implementation for the table is estimated at 1-2 days. A maximum timeframe for completion of installation of the replacement table is 9 weeks from the order placement date, which was November 22, 2006. *(Source: Page 1 of the December 15, 2006 submission)*

8. The Hospital indicates that the maintenance issue was unexpected and the delay is unpredictable and not within the control of the Hospital. *(Source: Page 4 of the December 15, 2006 submission)*

9. The Hospital has provided a detailed service history for this equipment which demonstrates the service problems that have been occurring for the past several months. *(Source: Attachment to December 15, 2006 submission)*

Order

OHCA has reviewed this request for a modification to a previously authorized CON and finds that the relationship of the CON authorized under Docket Number 04-30384-CON, as modified by Docket Number 05-30384-MDF, is not significantly altered by this request for a modification under Docket Number 06-30384-MDF. Based on this and the reasons provided in the Hospital's modification request, OHCA hereby modifies the CON authorized under Docket Number 04-30384-CON, as modified by Docket Number 05-30384-MDF, as follows:

Condition Number Three of the CON authorization is modified as follows:

3. This authorization requires the removal of the Hospital's existing interventional radiology equipment for certain disposition, such as sale or salvage, outside of and unrelated to the Hospital's various service provider locations. Furthermore, the Hospital will provide evidence to OHCA of the disposition of the existing angiography equipment to be replaced by no later than February 1, 2007.

All other conditions set forth in the final decision issued under Docket Number 04-30384-CON, as modified by Docket Number 05-30384-MDF not modified herein, will remain in full effect.

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
Signed by Commissioner Vogel on December 29, 2006

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Date   Cristine A. Vogel
                                           Commissioner

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