



Office of Health Care Access Certificate of Need Application

Final Decision

Applicant: Southern Connecticut Imaging Center, LLC d/b/a Whitney Imaging Center

Docket Number: 03-30002-WVR

Project Title: Request to Waive CON Requirements for Replacement of CT Scanner

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

Filing Date: January 3, 2003

Hearing: Not Applicable

Decision Date: January 28, 2003

Staff: Steven Lazarus

Project Description: Southern Connecticut Imaging Center, LLC d/b/a Whitney Imaging Center, LLC (“Applicant”) requests a waiver of the Certificate of Need (“CON”) requirements for replacement equipment. The Applicant proposes to replace its existing Siemens Somatom AR Star CT Scanner, with a Toshiba Asteion multi-slice CT Scanner. The total capital expenditure associated with the project is \$612,894.

Nature of Proceedings: On January 3, 2003, the Office of Health Care Access (“OHCA”) received the waiver of CON requirements request for replacement equipment from Southern Connecticut Imaging Center, LLC d/b/a Whitney Imaging Center, LLC. The Applicant proposes to replace its existing Siemens Somatom AR Star CT Scanner, with a Toshiba Asteion multi-slice CT Scanner. The total capital expenditure associated with the project is \$612,894. The Applicant 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

Each finding of fact included in this Final Decision has been taken from the waiver of CON requirements request form and related CON filings, or from other external sources of information. A source reference is included with each finding of fact. All applicants requesting a waiver of CON requirements for replacement equipment must attest to the accuracy and correctness of the information submitted to OHCA as part of the waiver of CON requirements process.

1. On August 29, 1997, under Docket Number 96-1000, Southern Connecticut Imaging Center, LLC d/b/a Whitney Imaging Center, LLC (“Applicant”) was authorized to acquire a Siemens Somatom AR Star CT Scanner for a total capital expenditure of \$2,085,979. *(August 29, 1997, OHCA, Final Decision, Docket Number 96-1000)*
2. The Applicant is proposing to replace its existing CT Scanner with a Toshiba Asteion CT Scanner, at a total capital expenditure of \$612,894. *(January 3, 2003, Letter of Intent Waiver Form 2030)*
3. The existing CT scanner has many limitations including tube heat capacity, slice thickness and lengthy reconstruction time. *(January 3, 2003, Letter of Intent Waiver Form 2030)*
4. The proposed CT scanner will allow the Applicant to perform multi-slice helical scanning. In addition, patient scan time and reconstruction time will be significantly reduced *(January 3, 2003, Letter of Intent Waiver Form 2030)*
5. The total capital expenditure of \$612,894 is below the \$2,000,000 threshold for determining eligibility for waiver of the CON requirements for replacement equipment pursuant to Section 19a-639c, C.G.S. *(January 3, 2003, Letter of Intent Waiver Form 2030)*
6. The total capital expenditure of \$612,894 for the proposed Toshiba Ct scanner is not more than the original cost, plus an increase of ten percent for each twelve-month period that has elapsed since August 29, 1997. *(January 3, 2003, Letter of Intent Waiver Form 2030)*
7. The project is intended to serve the following municipalities: Hamden, North Haven, North Branford, Cheshire, Wallingford, New Haven, East Haven and West Haven. *(January 3, 2003, Letter of Intent Waiver Form 2030)*

Rationale

Southern Connecticut Imaging Center, LLC d/b/a Whitney Imaging Center, LLC requests a waiver of the Certificate of Need (“CON”) requirements to replace its existing CT scanner at a total capital expenditure of \$612,894. The proposed Toshiba Asteion multi-slice CT scanner would replace the Applicant’s existing Siemens Somatom AR Star CT scanner that was approved by the Office of Health Care Access on August 29, 1997, under Docket Number 96-1000.

The proposed Toshiba Asteion multi-slice CT scanner will allow the Applicant to perform multi-slice helical scanning. In addition, patient scan time and reconstruction time will be significantly reduced.

The total capital expenditure for the proposed replacement equipment is \$612,984, which is below the \$2,000,000 threshold for determining eligibility for waiver of the CON requirements for replacement equipment pursuant to Section 19a-639c of the Connecticut General Statutes (“C.G.S.”). Furthermore, the total capital expenditure for the proposed CT scanner is not more than the original cost plus an increase of ten percent for each twelve-month period that has elapsed since the August 29, 1997 authorization granted by OHCA under Docket Number 96-1000.

Based on the foregoing Findings and Rationale, OHCA has determined that Southern Connecticut Imaging Center, LLC d/b/a Whitney Imaging Center, LLC’s request for a waiver of the CON requirements to replace their existing Siemens Somatom AR Star CT scanner with a Toshiba Asteion CT scanner, at a total capital expenditure of \$612,984, meets the requirements for waiver of the CON process pursuant to Section 19a-639c, C.G.S. and is hereby GRANTED.

Order

The request of Southern Connecticut Imaging Center, LLC d/b/a Whitney Imaging Center, LLC to replace its existing CT Scanning equipment, a Siemens Somatom AR Star CT scanner, with a Toshiba Asteion multi-slice CT scanner, at a total capital expenditure of \$612,984, is hereby GRANTED subject to the following conditions:

1. This authorization shall expire on January 28, 2004. Should the CT scanner replacement project not be completed by that date, the Applicant must seek further approval from OHCA to complete the project beyond that date.
2. The Applicant shall not exceed the approved capital expenditure of \$612,984. In the event that the Applicant learns of potential cost increases or expects that final project costs will exceed those approved, the Applicant shall file with OHCA a request for approval of the revised CON project budget.
3. The Applicant is required to notify OHCA as to the date of replacement and termination of the use of its existing dates of the existing Siemens Somatom AR Star CT scanner.

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

Date signed:
January 28, 2003

Signed by:
Mary M. Heffernan
Commissioner