



STATE OF CONNECTICUT
OFFICE OF HEALTH CARE ACCESS

M. JODI RELL
GOVERNOR

CRISTINE A. VOGEL
COMMISSIONER

July 7, 2008

Annamarie Rose
Administrative Director
Saint Raphael Magnetic Resonance Center
330 Orchard Street
New Haven, Connecticut 06511

Re: Certificate of Need Determination; Report Number: 08-31173-DTR
Saint Raphael Magnetic Resonance Center
Upgrades to an Existing 3.0 Tesla-Strength MRI Scanner in New Haven

Dear Ms. Rose:

On June 2, 2008, the Office of Health Care Access ("OHCA") received your Certificate of Need ("CON") Determination request concerning the proposal of Saint Raphael Magnetic Resonance Center ("Petitioner") to upgrade its existing magnetic resonance imaging scanner in New Haven. The estimated total capital expenditure of the proposal is \$362,117. On July 2, 2008, the Petitioner submitted additional information to OHCA regarding this matter. OHCA has reviewed the information contained in your CON Determination request and subsequent submission and makes the following findings:

1. Saint Raphael Magnetic Resonance Center ("Petitioner") is a free-standing, for-profit magnetic resonance imaging ("MRI") center. The imaging center is located on the Hospital of Saint Raphael campus at 330 Orchard Street, in New Haven, Connecticut.
2. The imaging center is operated as a joint venture between DePaul Health Services Corporation, a wholly owned subsidiary of the Saint Raphael Healthcare System, and Medical Imaging Associates, a private physician radiology practice.
3. The Petitioner provides MRI services primarily to inpatients and outpatients of the Hospital of Saint Raphael ("Hospital").

4. The Petitioner performs a full spectrum of routine and high field MRI imaging through the use of the following scanning equipment:
 - A fixed-based 3.0 tesla-strength MRI scanner, which was acquired in 2003 following OHCA CON authorization under Docket Number: 02-562; and
 - A fixed-based 1.5 tesla-strength MRI scanner, which was acquired in 1999 following OHCA CON authorization under Docket Number: 99-1000.
5. The Petitioner is proposing hardware and software upgrades to its existing Siemens TRIO 3.0 tesla-strength MRI scanner.
6. The Petitioner received earlier approvals to undertake two enhancements of its Siemens TRIO 3.0 tesla-strength MRI scanner through the following OHCA actions:
 - On July 27, 2005, a modification to the original CON authorization was granted to the Petitioner under Docket Number: 05-22933-MDF that allowed a scanner upgrade from an 8-channel receiver system to a 32-channel receiver system; and
 - On June 18, 2007, under Report Number: 07-30981-DTR, OHCA rendered a CON determination report indicating that no CON was required for the Petitioner to undertake a scanner software upgrade. The enhancement allows the scanner to be motion insensitive, while improving the imaging capability of the unit.
7. The Petitioner indicates the proposal will incorporate recently available technological enhancements that will improve the quality and utility of body imaging and improve patient safety.
8. The following system changes are proposed for the 3.0 tesla-strength MRI scanner:
 - Hardware improvements, which include:
 - A new receiver coil that will provide improved abdominal image quality and speed acquisition; and
 - A new endorectal coil for improved prostate imaging.
 - Computer and software enhancements will be made to improve the computer system's ability to process data for real time visualization and the supervision of acquired images.
9. The upgraded MRI scanner will continue to serve individuals residing or working in the Hospital's 22 town service area.
10. The total capital expenditure for the proposal is \$362,117.

11. The Petitioner will fund the scanner improvements entirely through a conventional loan.

12. The estimated start date for the enhanced MRI scanner is July 2008.

Based on the aforementioned findings, OHCA determines that Certificate of Need approval is not required for Saint Raphael Magnetic Resonance Center to upgrade the hardware and software components of its fixed-based 3.0 tesla-strength MRI scanner, at a total capital expenditure of \$362,117. Please be advised, however, that if the Petitioner changes the scope of the proposal or decides to replace the designated MRI scanner, Certificate of Need approval from OHCA may then be required.

Thank you for informing OHCA of your plans. If you have any questions concerning this letter, please contact Jack A. Huber, OHCA Health Care Analyst, at OHCA at (860) 418-7034.

Sincerely,

Signed by Commissioner Vogel on July 7, 2008

Cristine A. Vogel
Commissioner

cc: Rose McLellan, Licensing Examination Assistant, DHSR, DPH

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