



STATE OF CONNECTICUT
DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC HEALTH
Office of Health Care Access

July 14, 2010

Mr. Bruce Cummings
President and Chief Executive Officer
Lawrence & Memorial Hospital
365 Montauk Avenue
New London, CT 06320

RE: Certificate of Need Determination Request; Report Number: 10-31644-DTR
Lawrence & Memorial Hospital
Operational changes to the Hospital's OB-GYN clinic

Dear Mr. Cummings:

On March 8, 2010, the Office of Health Care Access ("OHCA") sent Lawrence & Memorial Hospital (the "Hospital") a letter requesting information about changes to the operation of the Hospital's Obstetrics and Gynecology Clinic ("OB-GYN clinic"). On March 23, 2010 and May 21, 2010, the Hospital provided OHCA with information about such changes to the OB-GYN clinic operations. OHCA has reviewed this matter and makes the following findings:

1. The Hospital is a health care facility or institution pursuant to Section 19a-630 of the Connecticut General Statutes. The Hospital operates an OB-GYN clinic on its main hospital campus.
2. The Hospital indicates that between FY 2007 and FY 2009, volume at the OB-GYN clinic dropped nearly 25%.
3. The Hospital has made related changes to the hours of operation that the clinic is open for regular clinic scheduling and appointments, as follows:
 - a) The OB-GYN clinic remains open on Mondays and Thursdays from 8:00 AM to 4:30 PM for patient scheduling without any change. The OB-GYN clinic was previously available on Wednesdays only for telephone counseling and triage with physician on-call and this does not change.
 - b) Tuesdays and Fridays were previously available for patient scheduling from 8:00 AM to 4:30 PM. Patient scheduling is now being reduced on those two days to four hours only each day. The remaining four hours each day, the clinic will only be available for telephone counseling and triaging.

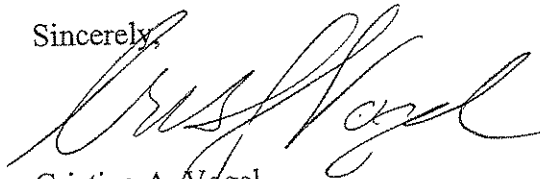
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4. These changes to the availability of hours for patient scheduling and appointments and changes to patient volumes since FY 2007 results in a change to the number of FTEs staffing the OB-GYN clinic.
5. There is no termination of health care services related to these operational changes.

Based upon the above findings, OHCA determines that Lawrence & Memorial Hospital's changes to hours of operation and staffing at its Obstetrics and Gynecology clinic does not require Certificate of Need authorization. The changes do not involve the establishment of an additional function or service or the termination of services under General Statutes § 19a-638. Additionally, there is no capital expenditure associated with these plans.

Thank you for your cooperation in OHCA's inquiry into this matter. If you have any questions concerning this letter, please contact Karen Roberts, Principal Health Care Analyst at (860) 418-7041.

Sincerely,



Cristine A. Vogel
Deputy Commissioner

Copy: Rose McLellan, License and Applications Supervisor, DPH

CAV:KR