



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

August 17, 2012

Dennis McConville
Senior Vice President for Planning,
Marketing & Communications
Eastern Connecticut Health Network, Inc.
71 Haynes Street
Manchester, CT 06040

RE: Certificate of Need Determination; Report Number: 12-31777-DTR
Rockville General Hospital's Proposal to Terminate its Diagnostic Cardiac
Catheterization Program in Vernon, Connecticut

Dear Mr. McConville:

On July 31, 2012, the Office of Health Care Access ("OHCA") received your response to our inquiry regarding the status of Rockville General Hospital's diagnostic cardiac catheterization program. The following information has been gathered by OHCA with respect to the operation of this program:

1. Eastern Connecticut Health Network ("ECHN"), Inc., is the parent corporation of Rockville General Hospital ("RGH") in Vernon, Connecticut and Manchester Memorial Hospital ("MMH") in Manchester, Connecticut.
2. On February 19, 2002, under Docket Number: 01-537, OHCA granted a Certificate of Need ("CON") to RGH and Saint Francis Hospital and Medical Center ("SFHMC"), collectively termed therein as the "Applicants", for the establishment of a diagnostic cardiac catheterization laboratory to be located at RGH.
3. In a letter dated February 18, 2003, the Applicants notified OHCA that the cardiac catheterization laboratory commenced operation on October 23, 2002, and that the project was in compliance with capital cost and digital data linkage requirements established in OHCA's CON authorization under Docket Number: 01-537.
4. The program is a service of RGH with related financial and utilization results recorded on Rockville General Hospital's books.

5. On August 2, 2011, OHCA initiated an inquiry with RGH that centered on OHCA's observation of RGH's declining cardiac catheterization utilization. It had become apparent during OHCA's review of RGH's FY 2010 12-month actual filing that the cardiac catheterization service had been experiencing decreasing service utilization in fiscal years ("FYs") 2009 and 2010. OHCA was seeking an explanation of the program's declining activity.
6. In a letter dated August 10, 2011, RGH informed OHCA of the following with regard to its cardiac catheterization service:
 - a. The service was not being utilized to the extent that the Applicants first anticipated.
 - b. On June 30, 2011, executive officers representing each Applicant met to review the program and explore how they could better serve the needs of the ECHN residents with suspected and confirmed cardiac disease.
 - c. ECHN had recently executed a contract with Corazon, Inc., a consulting firm whose task it was to assist in the development of a plan for all cardiac, vascular and stroke services offered within the ECHN system. The consultant's work was estimated to take approximately four and a half months to complete.
7. In response to OHCA's July 13, 2012 request for follow-up information, ECHN notified OHCA on July 31, 2012 of the following with regard to RGH's cardiac catheterization program:
 - a. The cardiologists have expressed interest in establishing an interventional cardiac catheterization program at MMH. Consequently, ECHN and their cardiologists are seeking to partner with SFHMC or another potential tertiary provider in the development of an elective percutaneous coronary angioplasty program at MMH.
 - b. In light of the above, ECHN does not anticipate cardiac catheterization services to resume at RGH.

Pursuant to Section 19a-638, Subsection (a)(4) of the Connecticut General Statutes ("C.G.S.") a Certificate of Need issued by OHCA shall be required for the termination of a service offered by a hospital. RGH is required to file a Certificate of Need application with OHCA specific to this termination of service pursuant to Section 19a-638 of the C.G.S.

If you have any questions concerning this letter, please contact Jack A. Huber, Health Care Analyst, at (860) 418-7069.

Sincerely,



Kimberly R. Martone
Director of Operations, OHCA

C: Rose McLellan, License and Applications Supervisor, DPH, DHSR
R. Christopher Hartley, Senior Vice President, Saint Francis Hospital & Medical Center

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