



## Office of Health Care Access

### A Modification of a Previously Authorized Certificate of Need

**Applicant:** Bridgeport Hospital

**Modification Docket Number:** 09-30352-MDF

**Modification Project Title:** A request to modify a previous Certificate of Need authorization in order to extend the CON expiration date to September 30, 2011.

**Original Project Docket Numbers and Title:** Docket Number 04-30352-CON: Emergency Department Renovation and Expansion Project including the Acquisition of a CT Scanner

**Statutory Reference:** Sections 4-181a(b), Connecticut General Statutes

**Filing Date:** February 26, 2009

**Decision Date:** March 10, 2009

**Staff:** Karen Roberts

**Project Description:** Bridgeport Hospital proposes a modification of the Certificate of Need (“CON”) authorization issued under Docket Number 04-30352-CON, as previously modified under Docket Numbers 07-30352-MDF, in order to extend the CON expiration date from March 21, 2009 to September 30, 2011. The CON authorization was for Bridgeport Hospital to renovate and expand its Emergency Department and to acquire and operate a computed tomography (“CT”) scanner, which will be dedicated for ED use, at a total capital expenditure of \$16,000,000.

## Findings of Fact

1. On March 21, 2005, under Docket Number 04-30352-CON, the Office of Health Care Access (“OHCA”) granted a Certificate of Need (“CON”) pursuant to Section 19a-639 of the Connecticut General Statutes, to Bridgeport Hospital (“Hospital”) to renovate and expand its Emergency Department and to acquire and operate a computed tomography (“CT”) scanner, which will be dedicated for ED use, at a total capital expenditure of \$16,000,000. Condition #1 of the CON authorization states the following:

*“1. This authorization shall expire on March 21, 2009. Should the Hospital’s project not be completed by that date, the Hospital must seek further approval from OHCA to complete the project beyond that date.”*
2. On November 30, 2007, under Docket Number 07-30352-MDF, OHCA issued a modification of the CON authorization in order to increase the authorized capital expenditure by \$2,064,589, from \$16,000,000 to \$18,064,589, which included the upgrade of the authorized CT scanner from a 16-slice unit to a 64-slice unit.
3. On February 26, 2009, OHCA received a request to further modify Docket Number 04-30352-CON in order to extend the CON expiration date set forth in Condition #1, from March 21, 2009 to September 30, 2011. The request is driven by the *“statewide and national economic recession”* and the Hospital wants to *“preserve cash by delaying major capital projects”*.
4. The Hospital indicates that it has completed all the work associated with the main patient care areas of the Emergency Department {the scope of the work described as Phases I, II and II in the CON application}. In addition, the Hospital indicates that parts of Phase IV have been completed. The four phases were described in the CON as follows:
  - Phase I: Construction of a new addition to house pediatric registration, waiting, triage and treatment areas. This includes the development of an adult urgent care registration, waiting, triage and treatment area, unfinished shell space for future expansion.
  - Phase II: Renovation of existing space to house the acute treatment areas as well as an x-ray room.
  - Phase III: Renovation of existing space to house acute treatment, as well as an observation area.
  - Phase IV: Renovation of existing space to house the seclusion/sobriety functions, as well as locker room space, an area for a CT scanner and medical records.
5. The Hospital further indicates it has not completed the CT scanner component of the project, nor the final renovations for the Psychiatric area of the ED. The Psychiatric area has been relocated into a renovated area, but it is regarded as swing space and will eventually become the Observation Unit once the final renovations for the Psychiatric area are completed.

6. The CT scanner and any of the associated equipment (such as the structural steel, supplemental AC system and monitoring equipment) have not been purchased yet.
7. The Hospital is not requesting any change in the authorized capital expenditure or the scope of the project related to this modification request.

## **Discussion**

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 04-30352-CON to Section 19a-637, C.G.S. is not altered by this request for a modification under Docket Number 09-30352-MDF. The modification request does not alter the intended scope or the authorized costs for the project and the circumstances which have occurred to further delay the project were unanticipated by the Hospital at the time of the original CON filing. A large portion of the total project has already been completed. The request for additional time to complete this project appears to be reasonable.

## **Order**

Based on the above discussion and the reasons provided in the Hospital's modification request, OHCA hereby grants the request and allows a modification of the CON Order under Docket Number 04-30352-CON. Condition # 1 of the CON Order under Docket Number 04-30352-CON is further modified as follows:

1. This authorization shall expire on September 30, 2011. If the remaining components of the project (Phase Four), including the CT scanner acquisition, have been undertaken and completed by the Hospital at a much earlier point in time than this CON expiration date, the Hospital should immediately notify OHCA of such project component completion.

All other conditions set forth in the CON authorization issued under Docket Number 04-30352-CON, as previously modified by Docket Numbers 07-30352-MDF, not modified herein, will remain in full effect.

By Order of the  
Office of Health Care Access

*Signed by Commissioner Vogel on March 10, 2009*

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Date

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Cristine A. Vogel  
Commissioner

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