



STATE OF CONNECTICUT
OFFICE OF HEALTH CARE ACCESS

M. JODI RELL
GOVERNOR

CRISTINE A. VOGEL
COMMISSIONER

November 7, 2005

John M. Ahle
Corporate Senior Vice President/CFO
Saint Vincent's Medical Center
2800 Main Street
Bridgeport, CT 06606

RE: Certificate of Need Determination; Report Number: 05-30613-EXM
Saint Vincent's Medical Center
Proposal to Purchase a Replacement Computer System

Dear Mr. Ahle:

On October 20, 2005, the Office of Health Care Access ("OHCA") received your request for purchasing a replacement computer system, pursuant to Public Act 05-168, which amends Section 19a-639a of the Connecticut General Statutes. OHCA has reviewed the information contained in your request and makes the following findings:

1. Saint Vincent's Medical Center ("Hospital") is an acute care, general hospital located at 2800 Main Street in Bridgeport, Connecticut.
2. The Hospital is a health care facility or institution as defined by Section 19a-630 of the Connecticut General Statutes ("C.G.S.").
3. The Hospital is proposing to purchase a replacement clinical record and revenue cycle computer system.
4. Public Act: 05-168 amends Section 19a-639a of the C.G.S. by adding subsection (c) which reads as follows:

"The Office of Health Care Access shall, in its discretion; exempt from certificate of need review pursuant to sections 19a-638 and 19a-639 any health care facility or institution that proposes to purchase or operate an electronic medical records system on or after October 1, 2005."

5. The Hospital has agreed to terms with its information vendor, IDX, to replace its "Lastword" computer system with the vendor's upgraded "Carecast" computer system. The proposed system involves significant upgrades to the nursing and physician order entry system and the overall electronic medical records systems.
6. The purchase and installation of the Carecast computer hardware and software systems will enable the Hospital to meet its clinical and financial informational needs for the next several years.
7. The project will result in no change or impact to the Hospital's clinical services, patient population or payments from third party payers.
8. The total capital expenditure for the replacement computer system is \$1,800,000.
9. The Hospital proposes to fund the acquisition through its operating funds.
10. The start date for the project is November 1, 2005.

Based on these findings, OHCA has determined that the Hospital's proposal meets the requirements of Public Act: 05-168, which amends Section 19a-639a of the Connecticut General Statutes and that Certificate of Need approval is not required for the Saint Vincent's Medical Center to purchase the Carecast computer system. Therefore, it will not be necessary for you to obtain further permission from OHCA in order to proceed with the proposed acquisition.

Thank you for keeping OHCA informed of your plans regarding this proposal. If you have any questions regarding this letter, please contact Jack A. Huber, OHCA Health Care Analyst, of the Certification, Financial Analysis and Forecasting Unit, at (860) 418-7034.

Sincerely,

Signed by Cristine A. Vogel
Commissioner

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