



By Electronic Mail

May 25, 2020

Donna Jerry
Senior Health Policy Analyst
Green Mountain Care Board
144 State Street
Montpelier, Vermont 05602
donna.jerry@vermont.gov

Re: Letter of Intent for Purchase of 3T MRI and Construction of Addition to House It

Dear Donna:

The University of Vermont Medical Center Inc. (“UVM Medical Center”) files this Letter of Intent and the enclosed Certificate of Need application, seeking expedited approval without a hearing and with such other abbreviated process as the Green Mountain Care Board (the “Board” or “GMCB”) finds appropriate, to purchase a new Magnetic Resonance Imaging (“MRI”) scanner (Philips Ingenia Elition 3.0T X MRI System), and build an addition to house the scanner at 192 Tilley Drive in South Burlington (the “Project”).

A request for expedited review may be granted if the project is (a) likely to be uncontested and (b) does not substantially alter services. 18 V.S.A. § 9440(c)(5); Certificate of Need Program Rule 4.00 (“Rule 4”). This Project is likely to be uncontested - UVM Medical Center is the only hospital that provides 3T MRI services in Vermont and northern New York.

A CON project does not “substantially alter services” if:

- (a) The project raises no significant health care policy or planning concerns; and
- (b) The expenditures associated with the proposed project do not have a significant impact on the services provided, the cost of health care, or the financial strength of the applicant.

Rule 4 § 4.304.

The Project’s capital cost of \$4.1 million is not substantial relative to UVM Medical Center’s overall budget, and the Project will not have a significant impact on UVM Medical Center’s existing services or financial health. The Project will expand UVM Medical Center’s MRI imaging capacity to meet current and projected patient need, promoting population health and improving outcomes, and raises no significant health care policy or planning concern.

We believe that the Board may declare this application uncontested and issue written notice granting a Certificate of Need without any further process, and we respectfully ask the Board to do so.

In accordance with 18 V.S.A. § 9440(c)(2) and Rule 4, we provide the following information about the Project, which we further discuss in the enclosed application:

Project Scope and Expenditures: The application requests a CON approving (1) purchase of a new Philips Ingenia Elition 3.0T X Magnetic Resonance Imaging scanner (a “3T MRI”), for an equipment capital cost of \$1,936,635; and (2) construction of an 825 square-foot addition at UVM Medical Center’s Orthopedic Specialty Center located at 192 Tilley Drive in South Burlington for a capital cost of \$2,143,557 (the “Project”).

Project Rationale: UVM Medical Center needs a new 3T MRI unit because its existing MRI units are all operating at over their full capacity. UVM Medical Center is presently unable to offer patients timely access to MRI and 3T MRI imaging services, which may result in delayed diagnosis and treatment of serious conditions such as cancer.

Need to be Addressed: The Project will meet patients’ need for timely access to diagnostic MRI and 3T MRI imaging services.

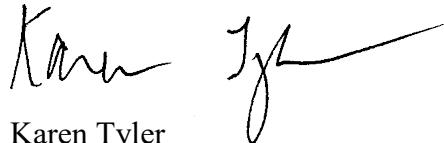
Cost, Access, Quality: The Project will improve access and quality of care. Reduced MRI wait times, and increased patient access to higher resolution 3T MRI, can translate to cost savings as a result of earlier disease detection for oncology and neurology patients.

Location: UVM Medical Center Orthopedic Specialty Center, 192 Tilley Drive, South Burlington.

Service Area: UVM Medical Center is the only hospital that provides 3T MRI services in the Vermont and northern New York region.

We look forward to working with you in the review process for this application.

Sincerely,



Karen Tyler
Associate General Counsel

cc: Stephen Leffler, M.D.