

**STATE OF VERMONT
GREEN MOUNTAIN CARE BOARD**

In re: The Collaborative Surgery Center)
) GMCB-008-21con
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ORDER DENYING REQUEST FOR EXPEDITED REVIEW

On July 30, 2021, the Collaborative Surgery Center (CSC) submitted an application for a certificate of need to construct an un-restricted, multi-specialty, outpatient surgery center in Colchester, VT consisting of four operating suites and associated offices. The total estimated cost of the proposed project is \$11.9 million. Also on July 30, 2021, CSC submitted a letter requesting expedited review of its application. Notice of the application and the request for expedited review was posted on the Green Mountain Care Board’s website on August 6, 2021, in accordance with 18 V.S.A. § 9440(c)(5)(A).

Because the application is not appropriate for expedited review, we deny CSC’s request. An application may be reviewed on an expedited basis if (1) the application is likely to be uncontested and the proposed project does not substantially alter services, or (2) the application involves a project that is likely to be uncontested, is consistent with the policies expressed in 18 V.S.A. § 9431(a), and may be reviewed appropriately in an abbreviated process. GMCB Rule 4.304.1. A project does not “substantially alter services” if the project raises no significant health care policy or planning concerns and if the expenditures associated with the proposed project or action do not have a significant impact on the services provided, the cost of health care, or the financial strength of the applicant. GMCB Rule 4.304.2.

We are not persuaded that the project does not raise significant health policy or planning concerns or that the project may be reviewed appropriately in an abbreviated process. The proposed project involves the development of what would be the first unrestricted, multi-specialty ambulatory surgery center (ASC) in the state. According to the applicant, the proposed project will meet a need for additional outpatient surgical capacity in Chittenden County, a claim that we anticipate we may need to gather additional data to properly analyze.

While we conclude that the application is not appropriate for expedited review, we intend to review the application as expeditiously as possible.

Dated: August 25, 2021 at Montpelier, Vermont

s/ Kevin Mullin, Chair)
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s/ Jessica Holmes)
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s/ Robin Lunge)
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GREEN MOUNTAIN
CARE BOARD
OF VERMONT

s/ Tom Pelham)
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s/ Maureen Usifer)

Filed: August 25, 2021

Attest: s/ Jean Stetter
Green Mountain Care Board
Administrative Services Director

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