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**DELIVERED ELECTRONICALLY**

July 11, 2024

Ms. Shireen Hart  
Primmer, Piper, Eggleston & Cramer, PC  
30 Main St.  
Suite 500  
Burlington, VT 05402**RE: Docket No. GMCB-016-24con, Rutland Regional Medical Center, Temporary Use of a Mobile MRI**

Dear Shireen:

Thank you for your letter received on July 1, 2024, requesting a jurisdictional determination regarding the above-referenced project.

Your letter represents that Rutland Regional Medical Center (RRMC) proposes to contract for the temporary use of a mobile MRI unit for a 12-month period, with the ability to extend that period month-by-month for up to an additional 12-month period. It is represented that RRMC currently has one fixed MRI, a GE Healthcare SIGNA Artist 1.5T 96 Channel 29.1 MRI scanner. While RRMC was in the midst of replacing the previous MRI scanner with the GE Healthcare SIGNA Artist 1.5T scanner, RRMC temporarily leased a mobile unit in 2021. (See GMCB-018-21con). The leased mobile unit at that time did not reach the monetary threshold triggering CON review. RRMC represents that even though the fixed MRI unit is operating seven days a week for 10-12 hours a day, it cannot keep pace with the demand for MRI imaging. For that reason, RRMC is seeking once again to lease a mobile MRI on a temporary basis. RRMC's letter notes that it is possible that RRMC may return to the Board in a future year to purchase a second MRI scanner, depending on whether the mobile unit demonstrates an ongoing need.

RRMC represents that it is currently experiencing an increased need for MRI scans that is attributed to the backlog in health care services initially caused by the COVID-19 pandemic. RRMC states that not only is there an increase in patients seeking delayed treatment from their primary care providers, which is resulting in sicker patients and increased MRI orders but RRMC's ED is also experiencing a similar increase in volume. RRMC concludes that an increase in ED patient visits places further demand on an already taxed MRI schedule. RRMC is operating its



fixed MRI seven days a week for 10 to 12 hours a day and is currently scheduling routine MRI scans five weeks out, to great frustration from medical staff.

Given that the existing maximized MRI schedule cannot keep pace with demand, RRMC represents that it anticipates using the mobile MRI unit to perform an additional 45 MRIs per week, for a total of 2,340 for one year. RRMC intends to enter into a 12-month service contract for use of the mobile unit, with a month-to-month contingency to follow, should the need continue beyond 12 months.

RRMC represents that the annual operating expense for one year will be \$918,573 and that there will be no annual capital expenses. The annual operating expense for one year does not exceed the current operating threshold of \$1,230,000. Based on the representations contained in the documents you have submitted, the annual operating expenses for one year are below the monetary threshold for Certificate of Need (CON) review, and therefore, the project is not subject to review at this time. However, if RRMC contemplates extending the use of the mobile MRI beyond one year, RRMC must submit a letter requesting a jurisdictional determination so the Board may determine whether further use meets or exceeds CON monetary thresholds.

As you proceed with developing and implementing this project, if there are any changes in type, scope, or cost of the project (including, but not limited to, extending the service beyond one year, changes in capital and/or annual operating expenses), please contact the Board immediately so we may determine whether any further process is necessary. Failure to do so as required by Green Mountain Care Board Rule 4.301(4) may result in sanctions, as specified in 8 V.S.A. § 9445.

If you have further questions, please do not hesitate to contact me at 802-760-8162.

Sincerely,

s/ Donna Jerry

Donna Jerry, Senior Health Policy Analyst  
Green Mountain Care Board

cc: Laura Beliveau, Staff Attorney, GMCB

