

STATE OF CONNECTICUT
OFFICE OF HEALTH CARE ACCESS

JOHN G. ROWLAND
GOVERNOR

CRISTINE A. VOGEL
COMMISSIONER

March 26, 2004

Ms. Paula McManus
Associate Vice President
Clinical Planning, Managed Care & Decision Support
John Dempsey Hospital of the University of Connecticut Health Center
263 Farmington Avenue
Farmington, CT 06030

RE: Report Number 04-30272-DTR; Certificate of Need Determination
Termination of Hospital Bone Marrow Transplant Program

Dear Ms. McManus:

On March 8, 2004, the Office of Health Care Access ("OHCA") commenced an inquiry into whether the John Dempsey Hospital ("Hospital") of the University of Connecticut Health Center ("UCHC") terminated its previously authorized Bone Marrow Transplant Program. On March 25, 2004, the Hospital responded to OHCA's inquiry. Listed below are pertinent findings regarding this matter:

1. The Hospital was authorized to establish a Bone Marrow Transplant Program pursuant to a Certificate of Need authorized under Docket Number 87-520, as modified by Docket Number 88-539R.
2. OHCA's inpatient discharge database information demonstrates that the Hospital had no inpatient volume related to Bone Marrow Transplants for the 1st and 2nd quarters of FY 2003.
3. The Hospital indicates that the individual physician designated as the head of the program resigned his position with the School of Medicine of the University of Connecticut Health Center in October 2001.
4. The Hospital continued to provide services to the then current Bone Marrow Transplant patients and also follow-up care for patients who had already had the procedure.

5. The last bone marrow transplant procedure was performed in February 2002.
6. The Hospital is not providing bone marrow transplant procedures to patients either within clinical trials or otherwise.
7. Dr. Carolyn Runowicz was recruited to lead the UCHC Cancer Signature Program in October 2003. She has indicated that "she does not intend to continue the provision of bone marrow transplant services" at the Hospital and UCHC.
8. The Hospital still has the facilities in place and the services necessary to perform bone marrow transplant procedures, but it is not currently accepting patients for this program. The Hospital still has attending physicians and hospital staff capable of providing bone marrow transplant services but they are not an active bone marrow transplant team.
9. Section 19a-639(a)(3) of the Connecticut General Statutes ("C.G.S.") as amended by Public Act 03-17, states "Each health care facility or institution or state health care facility or institution which intends to terminate a health services offered by such facility or institution or reduce substantially its total bed capacity, shall submit to the office, prior to the proposed date of such termination or decrease, a request to undertake such termination or decrease."

Based on the above findings, OHCA has determined that Certificate of Need approval is required for the John Dempsey Hospital of the University of Connecticut Health Center to terminate its Bone Marrow Transplant Program, pursuant to Section 19a-639(a)(3) of the Connecticut General Statutes ("C.G.S.") as amended by Public Act 03-17.

OHCA considers the submission of information received on March 25, 2004 as the Letter of Intent for this matter; therefore the Hospital may file a completed CON application with OHCA between May 24, 2004 and July 23, 2004. The CON application is being mailed to your attention separately. If you have any questions regarding the above, please contact Karen Roberts, OHCA Compliance Officer at (860) 418-7041.

Sincerely,

Cristine A. Vogel
Commissioner

cc: Rose McLellan, Licensing Examination Assistant, DHSR, DPH

CAV: kr