



STATE OF CONNECTICUT
OFFICE OF HEALTH CARE ACCESS

M. JODI RELL
GOVERNOR

August 28, 2006

CRISTINE A. VOGEL
COMMISSIONER

Barbara Durdy, Planning and Business Development
Hospital of Saint Raphael
1450 Chapel Street
New Haven, CT 06511

RE: Certificate of Need Determination; Report Number 06-30818-DTR
Hospital of Saint Raphael
Proposal to Relocate Cardiac Rehabilitation Services

Dear Ms. Durdy:

On August 16, 2006, the Office of Health Care Access (“OHCA”) received the Certificate of Need (“CON”) Determination Form regarding the relocation and consolidation of the Hospital’s of the Hospital’s cardiac rehabilitation program and cardiology outpatient clinic. OHCA has reviewed the information contained in the July 21, 2006 submission and makes the following findings:

1. Hospital of Saint Raphael (“Hospital”) is an acute care hospital located in New Haven, Connecticut and a health care facility or institution pursuant to Section 19a-630 of the Connecticut General Statutes.
2. The Hospital’s TakeHeart Cardiac Rehabilitation program (“TakeHeart”) is a comprehensive, long-term program that includes medical evaluation, prescribed monitored exercise sessions, cardiac risk factor modification, patient education, and counseling. Most programs are typical initiated one to three weeks later hospital discharged and designed to help a patient understand, adjust to, and recover from cardiovascular events.
3. The Hospital’s Outpatient Cardiology Clinic services include the acute and longitudinal evaluation and management of cardiovascular diseases by hospital-based attending cardiologist.
4. The Hospital currently has two locations for TakeHeart: 84 North Main Street, Branford, and 175 Sherman Avenue, New Haven.
5. The Hospital’s Outpatient Cardiology Clinic is currently located at 1450 Chapel Street, the main campus of the Hospital.
6. The Hospital is proposing to relocate the TakeHeart program in Branford to the Sherman Avenue location. It is also proposing to relocate its outpatient cardiology clinic services from Chapel Street to Sherman Avenue.

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7. The Hospital states that the consolidation and relocation of these services is needed due to the changes in coverage for cardiac rehabilitation programs that the CMS¹ made in March 2006. With declining of patient referrals, the Hospital seeks the proposed relocation and reorganization to realize necessary administrative and operational efficiencies.
8. The co-location of TakeHeart and the Cardiology Clinic on Sherman Avenue in New Haven will:
 - a. Ensure all rehabilitation exercise sessions satisfy CMS supervisory requirements since a hospital-based cardiologist will be on-site;
 - b. Improve the identification of patients who will benefit from TakeHeart services and increase TakeHeart referrals; and
 - c. Improve the integration of longitudinal cardiovascular clinic care with the rehabilitation services; and
 - d. Allow patients to schedule appointments with both clinic physicians and TakeHeart staff.
9. There is no capital expenditure associated with the proposal.
10. Section 19a-638 of the Connecticut General Statutes (“C.G.S.”) states, in part, that the introduction of any additional function or services and the termination of a health care function or service require authorization from OHCA.

Based on the above findings, OHCA has determined that the Hospital of Saint Raphael is terminating a cardiac rehabilitation service in Branford. Therefore, CON approval is required for the termination of a health care service.

OHCA considers the submission of information received on August 16, 2006, as the Letter of Intent for this matter; therefore the Hospital of Saint Raphael may file a completed CON application with OHCA between October 15, 2006, and December 14, 2006. The CON application is being mailed to your attention separately. If you have any questions regarding the above, please contact Laurie K. Greci, Associate Research Analyst at (860) 418-7001.

Sincerely,

Signed by Cristine A. Vogel
Commissioner

Copy: Rose McClellan, License & Applications Supervisor, Facilities Licensing & Investigations, DPH

¹ Center for Medicaid and Medicare Services.