



**STATE OF CONNECTICUT**  
OFFICE OF HEALTH CARE ACCESS

M. JODI RELL  
GOVERNOR

CRISTINE A. VOGEL  
COMMISSIONER

June 3, 2008

Colleen M. Scott  
Vice President of Finance  
Waterbury Hospital  
64 Robbins Street  
Waterbury, CT 06708

RE: Certificate of Need Determination Report Number 07-31068-DTR  
Waterbury Hospital  
Acquisition of Vascular Imaging Equipment

Dear Ms. Scott:

On June 2, 2008, the Office of Health Care Access ("OHCA") received your completed request for a Certificate of Need Determination regarding the acquisition of Vascular Imaging Equipment, at a total capital expenditure of \$1,734,050. Please be advised that OHCA has reviewed your request and makes the following findings:

1. Waterbury Hospital ("Hospital") is an acute care hospital located at 64 Robbins Street, Waterbury Connecticut.
1. The Hospital is proposing to acquire and operate a Siemens Axiom Artis dTA Detector System, vascular imaging equipment within an existing surgical suite.
2. Currently, this type of imaging equipment is only available in the interventional suite located in the Hospital's radiology department.
3. According to the Hospital, vascular surgery involves the treatment of artery or vein disease including hardening or blockage of the arteries and aneurysms. Traditional treatment has required invasive, open surgical procedures. However, vascular treatment has changed dramatically in recent years evolving into the use of endovascular techniques and hybrid procedures. Endovascular procedures are performed from within the blood vessel, using a minimally invasive approach (catheter). Hybrid vascular procedures are defined as combining tradition open surgery with endovascular techniques in operating room setting.

4. The Hospital is currently providing vascular system diagnostics and therapy via traditional and hybrid surgical and endovascular techniques.
5. The Hospital stated that by providing vascular imaging capability in a vascular surgical suite, physicians can diagnose vascular disease by utilizing the most advantageous treatment to achieve revascularization.
6. Through the proposed acquisition of the vascular imaging equipment, the Hospital will be able to perform the following procedures: endovascular aneurysm repair, thoracic aneurysm repair, carotid stenting, laser atherectomy and non-cardiac thrombolysis, stenting and angioplasty.
7. Advancements in technology over the last 8 years (the purchase date of the existing equipment) have yielded enhancements such as three-dimensional views of projection imagines, dual-volume visualization and cross-sectional imaging for enhanced decision-making during intervention.
8. In the January 23, 2008, responses to OHCA's Completeness Letter, the Hospital provided the following information:
  - a. The proposed vascular imaging equipment is not similar to a CT scanner, PET scanner, PET/CT scanner, MRI scanner, Cineangiography equipment or a linear accelerator pursuant to Section 19a-639 of the Connecticut General Statute;
  - b. Similar imaging systems have been used for decades by most acute care health care providers throughout the state for a variety of diagnostic studies;
  - c. Comparable equipment has been available at Yale New Haven Hospital, Hartford Hospital, The Hospital of Central Connecticut (New Britain General Hospital), Greenwich Hospital and Norwalk Hospital; and
  - d. Bridgeport Hospital and Lawrence and Memorial Hospital are currently awaiting installation of similar equipment.
9. On February 20, 2008, the Hospital provided a signed affidavit certifying that the proposed equipment is not a CT scanner, and attesting to the Hospital's responses provided in the completeness response received by OHCA January 23, 2008.
10. On May 15, 2008, the Hospital in a letter to OHCA, stated that the Hospital has opted not to acquire the DynaCT optional component of the vascular imaging system.
11. On June 2, 2008, OHCA received an updated vendor quote from the Hospital and the revised the equipment (Vascular Imaging Equipment) cost of \$1,484,050.
12. The final cost of the proposal is as follows: \$1,484,050 for the vascular imaging system and \$250,000 for the associated renovation/construction, for a combined total capital expenditure of \$1,734,050.

13. The Hospital proposes to fund this proposal through an equity contribution.
14. The Hospital does not anticipate a change in payer mix.
15. The Hospital will own the space and the equipment and will bill for the technical services, while the independent radiologist and surgeons will bill for their professional services related to the procedures, as is the current practice.

Based on these findings, OHCA has determined that pursuant to Section 19a-639 of the Connecticut General Statute, Certificate of Need approval is not required for the Hospital to proceed with the acquisition of vascular imaging equipment.

Thank you for providing information to OHCA regarding this proposal. If you have any questions concerning this letter, please contact Kim Martone, Certificate of Need Supervisor, at (860) 418-7029.

Sincerely,

***Signed by Commissioner Vogel on June 3, 2008***

Cristine A. Vogel  
Commissioner

CAV:agf