



NC DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES

ROY COOPER • Governor
KODY H. KINSLEY • Secretary
MARK PAYNE • Director, Division of Health Service Regulation

VIA EMAIL ONLY

July 31, 2024

Deanna S. Mool
dsmool@apprhs.org

No Review

Record #: 4491
Date of Request: June 19, 2024
Facility Name: Watauga Medical Center
FID #: 933533
Business Name: Watauga Medical Center, Inc.
Business #: 2040
Project Description: Acquire an Intuitive da Vinci V Surgical Robot System
County: Watauga

Dear Ms. Mool:

The Healthcare Planning and Certificate of Need Section, Division of Health Service Regulation (Agency) received your correspondence regarding the project described above. Based on the CON law in effect on the date of this response to your request, the project as described is not governed by, and therefore, does not currently require a certificate of need. If the CON law is subsequently amended such that the above referenced proposal would require a certificate of need, this determination does not authorize you to proceed to develop the above referenced proposal when the new law becomes effective.

This determination is binding only for the facts represented in your correspondence. If changes are made in the project or in the facts provided in the correspondence referenced above, a new determination as to whether a certificate of need is required would need to be made by this office.

Please do not hesitate to contact this office if you have any questions.

Sincerely,

Ena Lightbourne

Ena Lightbourne, Project Analyst

Micheala Mitchell

Micheala Mitchell, Chief

cc: Acute and Home Care Licensure and Certification Section, DHSR

NC DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES • DIVISION OF HEALTH SERVICE REGULATION
HEALTHCARE PLANNING AND CERTIFICATE OF NEED SECTION

LOCATION: 809 Ruggles Drive, Edgerton Building, Raleigh, NC 27603
MAILING ADDRESS: 809 Ruggles Drive, 2704 Mail Service Center, Raleigh, NC 27699-2704
https://info.ncdhhs.gov/dhsr/ • TEL: 919-855-3873

AN EQUAL OPPORTUNITY / AFFIRMATIVE ACTION EMPLOYER

June 19, 2024

VIA ELECTRONIC MAIL

Ms. Ena Lightbourne
Project Analyst
Healthcare Planning and Certificate of Need Section
Division of Health Service Regulation
NC Department of Health and Human services

RE: No Review Determination –

Dear Ms. Lightbourne:

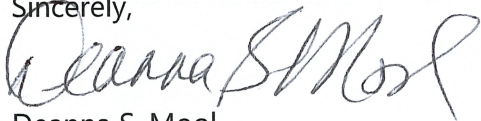
On behalf of Watauga Medical Center, Inc. (WMC) this letter serves as notice to the Department of Health and Human Services, Division of Health Service Regulation, Certificate of Need Section (“Agency”) that WMC intends to acquire an Intuitive da Vinci V surgical robot to be located in the Watauga Medical Center hospital surgical suite in Boone, North Carolina. The details regarding the DaVinci V robot system are set forth below.

The purpose of this letter is to request that the Agency issue a “No Determination Letter” indicating the acquisition of the da Vinci system is not subject to CON Section review and does not require that the Hospital obtain a certificate of need (“CON”).

The da Vinci V system cost will be \$1,875,000 via a capital lease. The equipment requires no modifications to the building and there are no constructions costs involved. Further, the addition does not constitute a new institutional health service.

WMC respectfully requests that you confirm in writing that the acquisition does not require a CON. Please do not hesitate to contact me at dsmool@apprhs.org if you requires any additional information.

Sincerely,



Deanna S. Mool
Chief Legal Officer

From: [Lightbourne, Ena](#)
To: [Stancil, Tiffany C](#)
Subject: FW: [External] Request for No Review determination for da Vinci Robot purchase-Watauga Medical Center
Date: Wednesday, June 19, 2024 4:45:56 PM
Attachments: [watauga medical center request for no review determination - da Vinci robot-2024-06-19.pdf](#)

Hey Tiffany, can you log? Thanks.

Ena Lightbourne
Project Analyst, CON
Healthcare Planning and Certificate of Need Section
Division of Health Service Regulation
[NC Department of Health and Human Services](#)

(I am in the office Thursdays and Fridays. I am working remotely on the other days, therefore email is typically the best way to reach me.)

Main: 919-855-3873
Ena.lightbourne@dhhs.nc.gov

809 Ruggles Drive, Edgerton Building
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From: Deanna S. Mool <dsmool@apprhs.org>
Sent: Wednesday, June 19, 2024 2:56 PM
To: Lightbourne, Ena <ena.lightbourne@dhhs.nc.gov>
Cc: JoLynn Mahoney <jmahoney@apprhs.org>
Subject: [External] Request for No Review determination for da Vinci Robot purchase-Watauga Medical Center

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Ena:

Please find the attached letter requesting confirmation from NC-DHHS that no review is required for Watauga Medical Center to purchase a da Vinci robot. I can provide any additional details needed for your review. Thank you.

Regards,
Deanna

Deanna S. Mool
Chief Legal Officer
Appalachian Regional Healthcare System, Inc. d/b/a UNC Health Appalachian
336 Deerfield Road
Boone, NC 28607
828-268-8915
dsmool@apprhs.org

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