

**VIRGINIA DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH**  
**Office of Licensure and Certification**  
**Staff Analysis**

April 16, 2020

**Chippenham & Johnston-Willis Hospitals, Inc. d/b/a Chippenham Hospital (4/13/2020)**  
Richmond, Virginia  
Temporarily add 63 ICU Beds at Chippenham Hospital

**Hospital**

Chippenham & Johnston-Willis Hospitals, Inc. d/b/a Chippenham Hospital (Chippenham Hospital) is located in the city of Richmond, Virginia, in Planning District (PD) 15, Health Planning Region (HPR) IV.

**Background**

On March 12, 2020, Governor Ralph Northam declared a state of emergency throughout Virginia in response to the coronavirus pandemic. Subsequent to this declared state of emergency, on March 20, 2020, Governor Northam signed Executive Order 52 (EO 52) providing that notwithstanding the provisions of Article 1.1 of Chapter 4 of Title 32.1 of the Code of Virginia the State Health Commissioner (Commissioner), at his discretion, may authorize any general hospital or nursing home to increase licensed bed capacity as determined necessary by the Commissioner to respond to increased demand for beds resulting from COVID-19. Such beds authorized by the Commissioner under EO 52 would, notwithstanding Virginia Code § 32.1-132, constitute licensed beds that do not require further approval or the issuance of a new license.

According to the 2018 data provided by Virginia Health Information (VHI), Chippenham Hospital operates an inventory of 466 beds (**Table 1**). Chippenham Hospital is taking all reasonable efforts to reduce inpatient census to free beds to respond to the COVID-19 crisis, including complying with the March 25, 2020 Order of Public Health Emergency 2.

**Request**

Chippenham Hospital cites an emergent need to expand bed capacity due to the sudden and overwhelming increase in acute care cases resulting from COVID-19 infection. Specifically, Chippenham Hospital requests authorization to temporarily add 63 ICU beds. Forty-seven of the requested beds will be located within the existing hospital's Post Anesthesia Care Unit (PACU), Pre-Op areas and operating rooms on the first, second, and fourth floors. The remaining 16 beds will be located in the cardiac catheterization treatment and recovery space on the second and third floors of the hospital. The resulting bed configuration at Chippenham Hospital is shown in Table 1.

**Table 1: Chippenham Hospital’s Requested Temporary Bed Inventory**

<b>Bed Classification</b>	<b>Licensed Beds</b>	<b>Requested Additional Beds</b>	<b>Resulting Available Beds</b>
Adult ICU	56	63	119
Med/Surg	213	0	213
Obstetric	28	0	28
Pediatric	24	0	24
Pediatric ICU	8	0	8
Psychiatric Bed - Other Adult	113	0	113
Psychiatric Bed - Other Child	24	0	24
<b>Total</b>	<b>466</b>	<b>63</b>	<b>529</b>

Source: VHI (2018)

**Considerations**

In determining whether a need exists for the requested additional bed capacity, the State Health Commissioner established the following factors for consideration, when applicable.

**1. Ongoing efforts to increase the availability of existing beds, such as suspension of elective procedures:**

Chippenham Hospital has made assurances that, in an effort to free up existing capacity, and in compliance with the March 25, 2020 Order of Public Health Emergency 2, they have suspended all elective procedures that, if delayed, are not anticipated to cause harm to the patient. Chippenham Hospital has also developed plans to convert step-down unit beds to ICU beds.

**2. The availability of professional and ancillary staff to provide care in the additional beds:**

Chippenham Hospital has made assurances that it has the necessary professional staff to provide care in the additional beds. As a part of the HCA Health System, Chippenham Hospital anticipates being able to utilize team members, both locally and across the state, that have been flexed due to low utilization in other portions of the health system and have developed appropriate education to swiftly repurpose team members into needed areas to help support patient care efforts.

**3. The availability of medical supplies and personal protection equipment in the facility:**

Chippenham Hospital has not made assurances that it has sufficient access to available medical supplies and personal protection equipment (PPE) in the facility. Given that the availability of PPE is a State and National concern, Chippenham Hospital contends that their supply chain professionals are working around the clock, and will have access to PPE commensurate with that of other acute care hospitals. The Virginia Disaster Medical

Advisory Committee (VDMAC) has suggested moving toward the adoption of crisis standards of care to, in part, preserve available supplies.

**4. The specific plan for increasing bed capacity:**

Chippenham Hospital requests authorization to temporarily add 63 ICU beds. Forty-seven of the requested beds will be located within the existing hospital's PACU, Pre-Op areas and operating rooms on the first, second, and fourth floors. The remaining 16 beds will be located in the cardiac catheterization treatment and recovery space on the second and third floors of the hospital. Chippenham Hospital anticipates that the beds would be used to supplement normal operations due to existing bed occupancy by COVID-19 patients.

**5. Where the beds will be located and the life safety code considerations of the location:**

Chippenham Hospital intends to locate the requested beds within the existing hospital's PACU, Pre-Op areas and operating rooms on the first, second, and fourth floors, as well as the cardiac catheterization treatment and recovery space on the second and third floors of the hospital. The ICU beds will be located in an existing part of Chippenham Hospital that is already in use for patient care, therefore the space meets life safety code requirements for the type of patients or residents expected to occupy the space.

**6. The availability of beds at other community hospitals and nursing homes in the community:**

Per the 2018 data provided by VHI, there are 3,448 licensed inpatient beds in PD 15. There are currently 368 licensed ICU beds in PD 15, and 2,081 medical/surgical beds. The overall bed capacity data does not inherently take into account the extent to which, due to the rapid rate of infection of COVID-19, how many new cases may arise, and thereby overwhelm Chippenham Hospital's, and the area's, capacity to treat patients, thereby jeopardizing the quality of care for residents of PD 15. Chippenham Hospital's proposal increases their bed capacity by 13.5%, and is a 1.8% increase in bed capacity in the planning district.

**7. Other alternatives to adding bed capacity:**

As discussed, given that Chippenham Hospital has already provided assurances that they have suspended all elective procedures, as well as the difficulty in anticipating how many cases of COVID-19 may arise in PD 15, the addition of beds in an existing medical care facility space represents the best option.

**8. The current state of COVID-19 in the community:**

At the time of this writing, the Virginia Department of Health reports that Virginia has 6,889 cases of COVID-19, the illness caused by the virus, and 208 deaths.<sup>1</sup> To date, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention has confirmed 605,390 cases in the United States, with

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<sup>1</sup> <http://www.vdh.virginia.gov/coronavirus/>

24,582 deaths.<sup>2</sup> Richmond City Health District currently has 188 confirmed cases, with an additional 764 cases in the surrounding jurisdictions.

### **Findings and Conclusions**

Chippenham Hospital requests authorization to temporarily add 63 ICU beds. Chippenham Hospital intends to locate the requested beds within the existing hospital's PACU, Pre-Op areas and operating rooms on the first, second, and fourth floors, as well as the cardiac catheterization treatment and recovery space on the second and third floors of the hospital. Chippenham Hospital anticipates that the beds would be used to supplement normal operations due to existing bed occupancy by COVID-19 patients. Chippenham Hospital has demonstrated that the rapid rise in COVID-19 cases has created an emergent need for a temporary increase in bed capacity. In the absence of a temporary increase to bed capacity in the planning district, it is conceivable that the continued rise of COVID-19 cases could overwhelm the hospital's capacity to treat patients, thereby jeopardizing the quality of care for residents of PD 15, and limit the ability of health care providers to adequately treat and limit the spread of the virus.

### **Staff Recommendations**

The Division of Certificate of Public Need recommends the **approval** of Chippenham & Johnston-Willis Hospitals, Inc. d/b/a Chippenham Hospital's request to temporarily add 63 licensed beds at Chippenham Hospital. This staff recommendation is based on the following findings.

1. Chippenham Hospital has demonstrated that, due to the reasonable expectation of a sudden and overwhelming increase in acute care patients resulting from COVID-19 infection, Chippenham Hospital has an immediate need to temporarily add 63 licensed inpatient beds.
2. Chippenham Hospital's plan for training and shifting ambulatory staff is a reasonable solution for staffing the additional beds.
3. Chippenham Hospital's plan and ability to obtain equipment and supplies is reasonable within the confines of the current crisis.
4. Chippenham Hospital's plan to expand bed capacity in existing hospital space throughout the campus assures patient safety is maintained from a fire and life safety code perspective.

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<sup>2</sup> [https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/cases-updates/cases-in-us.html?CDC\\_AA\\_refVal=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.cdc.gov%2Fcoronavirus%2F2019-ncov%2Fcases-in-us.html](https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/cases-updates/cases-in-us.html?CDC_AA_refVal=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.cdc.gov%2Fcoronavirus%2F2019-ncov%2Fcases-in-us.html)