

VIRGINIA DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH
Office of Licensure and Certification
Staff Analysis

April 17, 2020

Columbia/HCA John Randolph, Inc. d/b/a John Randolph Medical Center (4/13/2020)
Hopewell, Virginia
Temporarily add 31 Beds at John Randolph Medical Center

Hospital

Columbia/HCA John Randolph, Inc. d/b/a John Randolph Medical Center (JRMC) is located in Hopewell, Virginia, which is in Health Planning Region (HPR) IV, Planning District (PD) 19.

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), JRMC operates an inventory of 147 licensed beds (**Table 1**). JRMC is taking all reasonable efforts to comply with the March 25, 2020 Order of Public Health Emergency 2, including suspension of elective procedures and planning to convert step-down and progressive care unit beds to intensive care unit (ICU) beds.

Request

JRMC cites an emergent need to expand bed capacity due to an influx of patients and increased bed utilization resulting from COVID-19 infection. JRMC requests authorization to temporarily add 31 beds, including 27 ICU beds and four medical/surgical beds. The requested beds would be added on the JRMC campus located at 411 W. Randolph Road, Hopewell, Virginia. The resulting bed configuration at JRMC is shown in **Table 1**.

Table 1: John Randolph Medical Center Requested Temporary Bed Inventory

Bed Type	Existing Beds	Requested Additional Beds	Resulting Available Beds
Medical/Surgical	90	4	94
ICU	17	27	44
Psychiatric	40	0	40
Total	147	31	178

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:

JRMC 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, it has taken a number of steps to increase the availability of existing beds, including suspension of elective procedures and planning to convert step-down and progressive care unit beds to ICU beds.

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

HCA Virginia hospitals can utilize team members (both locally and across the state that have been flexed due to low utilization in other portions of the healthcare 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:

JRMC 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, RHC 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:

JRMC will add the requested beds on its campus located at 411 W. Randolph Road, Hopewell, Virginia. The 27 new ICU beds will be located in the Post-Anesthesia Unit (PACU), the Pre-Op area, operating rooms and endoscopy rooms located on the ground floor of the hospital. Two of the medical/surgical beds will be located in the infusion/holding rooms on the third floor and two medical/surgical beds will be located in the dialysis unit on the second floor of the hospital.

JRMC asserts that the additional beds will be used to supplement normal operations due to existing bed occupancy by patients diagnosed with COVID-19.

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

JRMC asserts that the new beds will meet all necessary life safety code requirements, such as oxygen, medical gases and vacuum capabilities.

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

Per the 2018 data provided by VHI, there are 799 licensed inpatient beds in PD 19, of which 52 are intensive care unit beds and 366 are 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 JRMC's and the area's capacity to treat patients, thereby jeopardizing the quality of care for residents of PD 19. JRMC's proposal increases its bed capacity by 31% and increases PD 19's bed capacity by 4%.

7. Other alternatives to adding bed capacity:

As previously discussed, given that JRMC has already provided assurances that it has suspended all of elective procedures, and the anticipated bed capacity shortages at other facilities in PD 19, as well as the difficulty in anticipating how many cases of COVID-19 may arise in PD 19, there are no alternatives to the requested temporary addition of bed capacity.

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 7,491 cases of COVID-19, the illness caused by the virus, and 231 deaths.¹ To date, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention has confirmed 632,548 cases in the United States, with 31,071 deaths.² At the time of this writing, there were 109 cases of COVID-19 positive patients in the Crater Health District, with another 414 patients in the surrounding jurisdictions.

Findings and Conclusions

JRMC proposes to temporarily add 31 beds, including 27 ICU beds and four medical/surgical beds. The Division of Certificate of Public Need (DCOPN) finds that, due to the sudden and overwhelming increase in acute care cases resulting from COVID-19 infection throughout the Commonwealth, JRMC has an immediate need to temporarily add 31 beds. JRMC has

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

² 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

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 19, 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 Columbia/HCA John Randolph, Inc. d/b/a John Randolph Medical Center's request to temporarily add 31 licensed beds on its campus. This staff recommendation is based on the following findings.

1. John Randolph Medical Center has demonstrated that, due to the reasonable expectation of a sudden and overwhelming increase in acute care patients resulting from COVID-19 infection, John Randolph Medical Center has an immediate need to temporarily add 31 beds, including 27 ICU beds and four medical/surgical beds.
2. John Randolph Medical Center's plan for training and shifting available staff is a reasonable solution for staffing the additional beds.
3. John Randolph Medical Center's plan to expand bed capacity in existing hospital space assures patient safety is maintained from a fire and life safety code perspective.