

VIRGINIA DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH

Office of Licensure and Certification

Staff Analysis

April 11, 2020

Novant Health UVA Health System Haymarket Medical Center (3/31/2020)

Haymarket, Virginia

Temporarily add 36 Beds at Novant Health UVA Health System Haymarket Medical Center

Hospital

Novant Health UVA Health System Haymarket Medical Center (“Haymarket Medical”), located in Haymarket, Virginia, is owned and operated by Prince William Hospital, a Virginia non-stock, not-for-profit hospital also located in Manassas, Virginia and organized pursuant to Title 13.1, Chapter 10, Article 10 of the Code of Virginia. Prince William Hospital is a subsidiary of Prince William Health System, which is owned and operated by Novant Health UVA Health System. Novant Health UVA Health System is a joint venture between UVA Medical Center and Novant Health, Inc. Haymarket Medical is located in Planning District (“PD”) 8, Health Planning Region (“HPR”) II.

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.

Per the 2018 data provided by Virginia Health Information, Haymarket Medical operates an inventory of 60 beds.

Request

Haymarket Medical 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, Haymarket Medical requests authorization to temporarily add 36 medical/surgical beds. Haymarket Medical states that these beds represent the first steps in expanding capacity to support the expected surge in COVID-19 patients. The requested beds will be located in the obstetrics area,

and the medical/surgical east and west wings. The resulting bed configuration at Haymarket Medical is shown in Table 2.

Table 2: Haymarket Medical Requested Temporary Bed Inventory

Bed Type	Existing Beds	Requested Additional Beds	Resulting Available Beds
ICU	8	0	8
Med/Surg	36	36	72
Obstetric	16	0	16
Total	60	36	96

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:

Haymarket Medical 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. Additionally, Haymarket Medical has made significant efforts to transition as much care as is appropriate to virtual or telemedicine visits. Finally, Haymarket Medical has diverted obstetric patient volume to the larger obstetric unit at Novant Health UVA Health System Prince William Medical Center in order to free up the 16 bed obstetric unit at Haymarket Medical for use during the COVID-19 crisis.

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

Haymarket Medical has made assurances that it has the necessary professional staff to provide care in the additional beds. Haymarket Medical will redeploy staff members whose regular jobs have been impacted by the reduction or cessation of elective procedures and other services at the hospital. Moreover, Haymarket Medical has developed a centralized staffing pool that calls in additional services from both within and without the health system. Finally, Haymarket Medical is coordinating with local partners to ensure that staff childcare needs are addressed.

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

Haymarket Medical has made assurances that it has sufficient access to available medical supplies and personal protection equipment in the facility. Haymarket Medical has modified their PPE utilization policies to conserve these supplies while ensuring the safety of patients,

their families, and Haymarket Medical's staff and clinicians. Haymarket Medical is also working with their parent organizations, Novant Health and University of Virginia, as well as local, state, and federal bodies to access existing stock of PPE and to increase various supplies needs to support demand. Haymarket Medical is also accepting donations from the community to supplement their supply needs.

4. The specific plan for increasing bed capacity:

Haymarket Medical intends to place the requested beds in the obstetrics area, and the medical/surgical east and west wings. At this time, the planned use of the beds is to supplement normal operations based on existing and projected increase in occupancy by COVID-19 patients.

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

Haymarket Medical will tailor their use of the spaces based on the acuity of patients that will be located in those areas, patient safety, egress, and other life safety concerns. Additionally, the proposed areas, which are located within the existing hospital, are already outfitted with medical gas headwalls that will meet patient needs. Moreover, the hospital has 100% sprinkler coverage and smoke detection coverage. Finally, Haymarket Medical has provided assurances that Life Safety Code occupancy limitations will not be exceeded.

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

Per the 2018 data provided by Virginia Health Information (VHI), there are 3,209 licensed inpatient beds in PD 8 of which 1,749 are medical surgical beds and 326 are intensive care unit 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 Haymarket Medical's and the area's capacity to treat patients, thereby jeopardizing the quality of care for residents of PD 8. Haymarket Medical's proposal increases their overall bed capacity by 60% and is a 1.1% increase in overall bed capacity in the planning district.

7. Other alternatives to adding bed capacity:

As discussed, given that the applicant has already provided assurances that they have suspended all of elective procedures, and the efforts taken within the health system to maximize the number of available beds to treat COVID-19 patients, as well as the difficulty in anticipating how many cases of COVID-19 may arise in PD 8, the addition of beds in space that is just coming online 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 5,077 cases of COVID-19, the illness caused by the virus, and 130 deaths.¹ To date, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention has confirmed 459,165 cases in the United States, with 16,570 deaths.² Prince William Health District currently reports 434 patients with COVID-19, with an additional 1,334 patients in the surrounding jurisdiction.

The Health Systems Agency of Northern Virginia (“HSANV”) recommended approval of Haymarket Medical’s request to add 36 beds. HSANV found Novant’s requests are responsive to the intent and purpose of Executive Order 52 and that, among other considerations, the capacity changes proposed at Novant hospitals:

1. Relate directly to the objectives and provisions of Executive Order 52. The requests submitted are for temporary increases in adult medical-surgical beds and intensive care beds. The individual hospital requests provide the information specified in the Commissioner of Health’s March 24, 2020 letter providing guidance to Virginia hospital and nursing home administrators in applying for temporary bed increases.
2. Collectively, the three requests cover all Novant hospitals in Virginia. They take advantage of space and capabilities in each facility that with relatively modest adjustments will permit more effective and efficient use of existing clinical space under exigent circumstances.
3. Call for what appear to be economically rational changes, e.g., recapturing medical-surgical bed space vacated or reserved as part of campus renovation and modernization projects, and consolidating inpatient obstetrics capacity at Haymarket Medical to permit the addition of a substantial number of medical-surgical beds at Haymarket Medical.
4. Represent a critical first step in responding to community concerns and local medical care needs likely to arise during the unfolding COVID-19 epidemic.

Based on these considerations, and on the recognition that the beds requested are likely to be needed soon, HSANV recommended that Haymarket Medical’s request be granted. DCOPN agrees with the HSANV recommendation for approval, concurs with, and adopts, the attached HSANV analysis.

DCOPN Findings and Conclusions

Haymarket Medical proposes to temporarily add 36 medical/surgical beds. Haymarket Medical states that these beds represent the first steps in expanding capacity to support the expected surge in

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

COVID-19 patients. The requested beds will be located in the obstetrics area, and the medical/surgical east and west wings. DCOPN finds that, due to the sudden and overwhelming increase in acute care cases resulting from COVID-19 infection throughout the Commonwealth, Haymarket Medical has an immediate need to add temporarily 36 beds. Haymarket Medical 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 8, and limit the ability of health care providers to adequately treat and limit the spread of the virus.

DCOPN Staff Recommendations

The Division of Certificate of Public Need recommends the **approval** of Novant Health UVA Health System Haymarket Medical Center request to add temporarily 36 beds at Novant Health UVA Health System Haymarket Medical Center. DCOPN's recommendation is based on the following findings.

1. Haymarket Medical has demonstrated that, due to the reasonable expectation of a sudden and overwhelming increase in acute care patients resulting from COVID-19 infection, Haymarket Medical has an immediate need to add 36 temporarily licensed inpatient beds.
2. Haymarket Medical's plan for training and shifting ambulatory staff is a reasonable solution for staffing the additional beds.
3. Haymarket Medical's plan and ability to obtain equipment and supplies is reasonable within the confines of the current crisis.
4. Haymarket Medical's plan to expand bed capacity in existing hospital space assures patient safety is maintained from a fire and life safety code perspective.
5. The HSANV recommended approval of Haymarket Medical's request.