

VIRGINIA DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH
Office of Licensure and Certification
Staff Analysis

April 29, 2020

Inova Healthcare Services d/b/a Inova Loudoun Nursing and Rehabilitation Center
Leesburg, Virginia
Temporarily add 32 Beds at Loudoun Nursing and Rehabilitation Center

Hospital

Inova Healthcare Services d/b/a Inova Loudoun Nursing and Rehabilitation Center (LNRC) and Inova Loudoun Hospital (ILH) are both located in Leesburg, Virginia in Planning District (PD) 8, Health Planning Region (HPR) II.

Background

On March 32, 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 (VHI), and DCOPN records, LNRC operates an inventory of 100 licensed nursing home beds (**Table 1**).

Request

LNRC proposes to temporarily add 32 skilled nursing facility/nursing facility (SNF/NF) beds to its existing inventory. The requested beds would be put into service at ILH, in space formerly occupied by The Birthing Inn at ILH, which is located at 44045 Riverside Parkway, Leesburg, Virginia. The space is currently vacant and ready for immediate occupancy. The resulting bed configuration for LNRC is shown in Table 1. LNRC staff will be relocated to the Birthing Inn to staff the new beds.

Table 1: LNRC Requested Temporary Bed Inventory

Bed Type	Beds	Requested Additional Beds	Resulting Available Beds
SNF/NF	32	32	64
NF	68	0	68
Total	100	32	132

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:

As a skilled nursing facility, LNRC does not necessarily have the ability to increase the availability of existing beds by, for example, postponing elective procedures. This request for additional beds stems from LNRC’s need to safely segment any COVID-19 residents who need a place to be discharged to post hospitalization. Placement of COVID-19 positive/suspected residents has been difficult, as other nursing facilities in the region are unwilling to take these residents.

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

Staffing will be provided by existing LNRC staff, augmented as necessary by cross-training and redeploying hospital staff who may be available due to the reduction in elective procedures.

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

LNRC did not specifically address the availability of medical supplies and personal protection equipment (“PPE”) at its facility. LNRC is in the same condition as other medical care facilities regarding the availability of PPE. 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:

LNRC has requested 32 licensed nursing home beds to be dual certified SNF/NF beds. The requested beds would be put into service at ILH, in space formerly occupied by The Birthing Inn. LNRC has been fortunate in that it has not had any resident test positive for COVID-19 to date, and Inova Healthcare Services wishes to continue to avoid any cases at LNRC. This

request for additional beds stems from LNRC's need to safely cohort any COVID-19 residents who need a place to be discharged to post hospitalization. Adding 32 SNF/NF beds at ILH's former Birthing Inn will permit LNRC to care for these COVID-19 residents in an appropriate setting that is remote from LNRC's existing residents and in an area of the hospital that is physically separate from patients.

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

LNRC has made assurances that the Birthing Inn space satisfies all life safety code considerations. The beds are to be located in existing clinical care space that has 100% sprinkler and smoke detection coverage, and that are part of the hospital's existing life safety compartments and suites. The LNRC staff scheduled to staff the new beds at the Birthing Inn have been specifically trained to the evacuation and other life safety code requirements of the new space. Therefore, the space meets life safety code requirements for the type of 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, and DCOPN records, there are 4,162 licensed nursing home beds in PD 8, (527 SNF, 3,333 SNF/NF, 268 NF). 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 LNRC's, and the area's, capacity to treat residents, thereby jeopardizing the quality of care for residents of PD 8. LNRC's proposal increases its bed capacity by 32% and is a 1% increase in standing skilled nursing care bed capacity in the planning district.

7. Other alternatives to adding bed capacity:

Given the anticipated bed capacity shortages at other facilities in PD 8, as well as the difficulty in anticipating how many cases of COVID-19 may arise in PD 8, 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 14,961 cases of COVID-19, the illness caused by the virus, and 522 deaths.¹ To date, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention has confirmed 981,246 current cases in the United States, with 55,258 deaths.² The Loudoun Health District currently reports 727 confirmed cases of patients with COVID-19, with another 5,987 patients in the surrounding jurisdictions.

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

The Health System of North Virginia (“HSANV”) recommended approval of LNRC’s request to add 32 beds. HSANV found LNRC’s request to be thought out and prudent. Among other considerations, the initiatives described:

1. LNRC has demonstrated that, due to the reasonable expectation of a sudden and overwhelming increase in acute care patients resulting from COVID-19 infection, LNRC has an immediate need to temporarily add 32 licensed nursing home beds.
2. LNRC’s plan for training and shifting nursing home staff is a reasonable solution for staffing the additional beds.
3. LNRC’s plan and ability to obtain equipment and supplies is reasonable within the confines of the current crisis.
4. LNRC’s plan to expand nursing home bed capacity into existing hospital space assures patient safety is maintained from a fire and life safety code perspective.
5. HSANV recommended approval of LNRC’s request.

Based on these considerations, and on the recognition that the beds are likely to be needed soon, HSANV recommended LNRC’s request be granted.

Findings and Conclusions

LNRC proposes to temporarily add 32 skilled nursing care beds. The requested beds would be put into service at ILH, in space formerly occupied by The Birthing Inn. DCOPN finds that, due to the sudden and overwhelming increase in acute care cases resulting from COVID-19 infection throughout the Commonwealth, LNRC has an immediate need to temporarily add 32 skilled nursing care beds. Furthermore, DCOPN finds that LNRC’s plan for training and shifting staff is a reasonable solution for staffing the requested beds. Additionally, DCOPN concludes that LNRC’s plan and ability to obtain equipment and supplies is reasonable within the confines of the current crisis. Moreover, DCOPN finds that LNRC’s plan to expand bed capacity in existing hospital space assures patient safety is maintained from a fire and life safety code perspective. 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.

Staff Recommendations

The staff recommends the **approval** of Inova Healthcare Services d/b/a Inova Loudoun Nursing and Rehabilitation Center's request to temporarily add 32 nursing home beds at Inova Loudoun Hospital. The staff's recommendation is based on the following findings.

1. LNRC has demonstrated that, due to the reasonable expectation of a sudden and overwhelming increase in acute care patients resulting from COVID-19 infection, LNRC has an immediate need to temporarily add 32 licensed nursing home beds.
2. LNRC's plan for training and shifting repurposed staff is a reasonable solution for staffing the additional beds.
3. LNRC's plan and ability to obtain equipment and supplies is reasonable within the confines of the current crisis.
4. LNRC's plan to expand bed capacity in existing hospital space assures patient safety is maintained from a fire and life safety code perspective.
5. HSANV recommended approval of LNRC's request.