



# MARYLAND Department of Health

Larry Hogan, Governor · Boyd K. Rutherford, Lt. Governor · Robert R. Neall, Secretary

Office of Health Care Quality  
7120 Samuel Morse Drive, 2<sup>nd</sup> Floor  
Columbia, MD 21046

March 18, 2020

Ben Steffen, Executive Director  
Maryland Health Care Commission  
4160 Patterson Avenue  
Baltimore, MD 21215

Dear Mr. Steffen,

As you are aware, on March 5, 2020, Governor Hogan issued a proclamation that a state of emergency and a catastrophic health emergency exists in Maryland, due to the COVID-19 outbreak. Based on the increased need for acute general hospital beds due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the Office of Health Care Quality is requesting that the Maryland Health Care Commission apply its authority under COMAR 10.24.01.20 to grant an emergency certificate of need to Mercy Medical Center.

Mercy Medical Center has requested licensure for a proposed 32 bed inpatient unit that will be constructed over the next 2 months in vacant space on the seventh floor of the new hospital tower.

The Office of Health Care Quality recommends this certificate of need should be approved on an emergency basis, and based on the information provided by the hospital, these beds can be provisionally licensed as part of Mercy Medical Center.

Please contact me if you have any questions at 410-402-8116 or 443-681-0278.

Sincerely,

Renee B. Webster, Deputy Director Federal Programs