The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

Executive Office of Health and Human Services

Department of Public Health

Bureau of Health Care Safety and Quality

Division of Health Care Facility Licensure and Certification

67 Forest Street, Marlborough, MA 01752



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**Tel: 617-624-6000**

**www.mass.gov/dph**

December 14, 2022

Andrew S. Levine

Partner

Husch Blackwell

One Beacon Street

Boston, MA 02108

Andrew.Levine@huschblackwell.com

BY EMAIL ONLY

**Re: Essential Services Finding**

**Facility:** Saint Elizabeth’s Medical Center

**Re:** Closure of Outpatient Dialysis Unit

**Ref. #:** 2085-B74

Dear Attorney Levine:

On October 11, 2022, the Department of Public Health (the “Department”) received a notice from you regarding Steward Health Care System, LLC’s intent to discontinue Outpatient Dialysis Services at Saint Elizabeth’s Medical Center (the “Hospital”) in Brighton, MA. A public hearing was held via teleconference on December 8, 2022.

Following the hearing and review of information presented, the Department has determined, pursuant to 105 CMR 130.122(E), the Outpatient Dialysis Service the Hospital intends to remove from its license is not necessary for preserving access and health status in the Hospital's service area. The Department based this finding on information presented that the Hospital’s current outpatient dialysis utilization rates have significantly decreased year over year since 2020. Additionally, the Hospital has aligned with dialysis providers who have the capacity for additional patients.

Although the Hospital may proceed with its plans to close Outpatient Dialysis Services on or before February 7, 2023, it is the Department’s expectation that when hospitalized patients needing ongoing dialysis care after discharge are identified, the Hospital will work with outpatient dialysis providers in the service area to ensure safe care transitions. Please notify the Department of the actual closure date when that occurs.

Thank you for your continued cooperation in this process. If you have any questions, please contact Walter Mackie at Walter.Mackie@Mass.Gov.

Sincerely,

 

Stephen Davis

Director

cc: E. Kelley, DPH

 R. Kaye, DPH

 A. Mehlman, DPH

 M. Callahan, DPH

 J. Bernice, DPH