

June 26, 2021

Via Email

Sherman Lohnes, Esq., Director
 Division of Health Care Facility Licensure and Certification
 Massachusetts Department of Public Health
 67 Forest Street
 Marlborough, MA 01752

Re: Anna Jaques Hospital – Formal 90-Day Notice of Closure of Inpatient Pediatric Service

Dear Attorney Lohnes:

We write on behalf of Anna Jaques Hospital, located at 25 Highland Avenue, Newburyport, MA 01950 (the “Hospital”) in follow-up to the initial essential services closure notice that the Hospital filed on May 27, 2021 with the Department of Public Health (the “Department”) and the appropriate parties required by the Department’s regulations. Pursuant to 105 CMR 130.122(B), the Hospital hereby provides the required ninety (90) day notice to the Department of its intent to discontinue operation of its inpatient pediatric service, consisting of 8 beds (“the Service”). We offer the following information.

The Hospital determined that the Service should be discontinued because of insufficient patient volume over the last several years, which is an indicator that there is not adequate demand for the Service. In compliance with 105 CMR 130.122(B), the following information regarding the discontinuation is provided for the Department’s review.

1. Current Utilization Rates. The following table details the Service for the last three fiscal years (“FY”), including FY21 through May.

AJH Pediatric Service	FY18	FY19	FY20	FY21 through May
Number of Pediatric Patients	28	33	30	1
Pediatric Unit Patient Days	17	28	27	0
Pediatric Unit Average Daily Census	0.05	0.08	0.07	0.00

As illustrated in the table above, the Hospital’s inpatient pediatric unit has experienced a low Average Daily Census (“ADC”) over the past three years and year to date, with less than one patient per week. In FY21 through May, the Hospital had one pediatric inpatient admitted to

the Service. This continued low ADC is evidence that there is insufficient demand to continue to operate the Service at the Hospital in an efficient manner.

2. Impact of Discontinuance. The Hospital does not anticipate a negative impact on patient access following the closure of the Service. In recent years, pediatric care has largely migrated to outpatient service providers. As a result, community hospitals experience lower pediatric inpatient volume and are largely providing treatment for short-stay pediatric admissions. Following the closure of the Service, patients will continue to have access to several nearby community hospitals for inpatient pediatric services. Moreover, pediatric patients presenting with higher acuity needs will continue to be transferred to tertiary hospitals consistent with current practice.
3. Date Set of Discontinuance. This ninety (90) day notice is hereby provided for a target closure date of September 24, 2021.
4. Health Care Coalitions and Community Groups. The Hospital anticipates that the following community group may have an interest in the discontinuation of the Service:

Newburyport Youth Services
40 Milk Street
Newburyport, MA 01950
978-465-4434
Contact: Andi Egmont, Director

5. Community Engagement and Planning Activities Prior to the Notice of Closure. The Hospital has undertaken the following community engagement and planning activities with respect to the planned closure:
 - May 25-27, 2021 – Communicated with state and local representatives and officials, including Senator Diana DiZoglio, Representative James Kelcourse, Representative Lenny Mira, Mayor Donna Holaday (Newburyport), Mayor Kassandra Gove (Amesbury), Town Manager Neil Harrington (Salisbury), and Newburyport City Council President Jared Elgerman regarding the Hospital's plans to close the Service.
 - May 25-27, 2021 – Communicated with the Hospital's Board of Trustees, Community Benefits Advisory Council, and the Hospital's Community Health Foundation Board regarding the closure of the Service.
 - May 27, 2021 – Email notice of closure provided to the Hospital's medical staff and employees, Massachusetts Nurses Association (MNA), Massachusetts Senators and Representatives for Newburyport, local officials of Newburyport, Newburyport City Council members, and the Hospital's Patient Family Advisory Committee (PFAC).

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If you require further information with respect to this matter, please contact Andrew S. Levine, Esq. at (781) 898-4379.

Sincerely,



Mark Goldstein, President

cc: S. Boyd, Esq., AJH
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Health Policy Commission
Office of the Attorney General (Massachusetts)
Center for Health Information and Analysis
Executive Office of Labor and Workforce Development

Newburyport Youth Services