



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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KARYN E. POLITO  
Lieutenant Governor

August 15, 2022

MARYLOU SUDDERS  
Secretary

MARGRET R. COOKE  
Commissioner

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BY EMAIL ONLY

**Re: Review of Response Following Essential Services Finding**  
**Facility:** MetroWest Medical Center – Framingham Union Hospital  
**Services:** Oncology Infusion  
Radiation Oncology  
**Ref. #:** 2020-520

Dear Attorney Bloom:

On August 5, 2022, the Department of Public Health (the "Department") received from you, on behalf of VHS Acquisition Subsidiary Number 9, Inc., a response to our July 22, 2022 letter indicating that MetroWest Medical Center (the "Hospital") must file a plan with the Department detailing how access to services will be maintained following the discontinuation of Oncology Infusion and Radiation Oncology services at Framingham Union Campus in Framingham, MA. Thank you for responding to our request in a timely and comprehensive manner.

Pursuant to 105 CMR 130.122(G) the Department has completed its review of the submitted access plan. As a result of this review, the Department has prepared the following comments:

- 1. Status of Negotiations:** In your response dated August 5, 2022, much of the information provided is based on the assumption that Tufts Medical Center ("Tufts MC") becomes the licensed provider of Oncology Infusion and Radiation Oncology services at the current location. The Department requests the Hospital provide it with information about progress in negotiations with Tufts MC. Specifically, the Department requests a time frame for negotiations and information on any potential barriers to reaching an agreement.. Additionally, the Department requests a mechanism be put in place through which the Hospital keeps the Department up to date with the status of the negotiations on an ongoing and regular basis.

2. **Scope of Successor Agreement:** In your response dated August 5, 2022, you state that Tufts MC plans to offer the same services that are currently available at the Hospital. As negotiations with Tufts MC continue, the Department requests ongoing confirmation that the scope of the successor agreement includes Tufts MC assuming the entirety of the Oncology Infusion and Radiation Oncology services now offered by the Hospital. If the scope of the services offered by the successor provider changes during negotiations, the Department requests information on those changes.
3. **Alternative Delivery Sites:** In your response dated August 5, 2022, you provided information on Saint Vincent Hospital as an alternative delivery site. The Department requests the Hospital provide it with similar information for alternative delivery sites other than Saint Vincent Hospital.

Under the provisions of 105 CMR 130.122(G), the Hospital must submit a timely response to the comments of the Department. Please submit your comments within 10 days of your receipt of this letter to my attention, in order that we may complete our review of the pending closure.

Thank you for your continued cooperation in this process. If you have any questions, please contact me at [Stephen.Davis@Mass.Gov](mailto:Stephen.Davis@Mass.Gov).

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Stephen Davis". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Stephen" written in a larger, more prominent script than the last name "Davis".

Stephen Davis  
Division Director

cc: E. Kelley, DPH  
J. Bernice, DPH  
A. Mehlman, DPH  
M. Callahan, DPH