



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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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.

Letter dated December 14, 2022
Re: Saint Elizabeth's Medical Center
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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,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Stephen Davis". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, prominent "S" at the beginning and a long, sweeping underline.

Stephen Davis
Director

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