

# HUSCH BLACKWELL

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April 1, 2022

**VIA E-MAIL - [stephen.davis@state.ma.us](mailto:stephen.davis@state.ma.us)**

Stephen Davis, Director  
Division of Health Care Facility Licensure and Certification  
Department of Public Health  
67 Forest Street  
Marlborough, MA 01752

Re: Steward Health Care System LLC, Norwood Hospital - Closure of Obstetrics  
Services - Response to Department of Public Health's Review of Response  
Following Essential Services Finding

Dear Mr. Davis:

This letter is submitted on behalf of Steward Health Care System LLC, which owns and operates Norwood Hospital located 800 Washington Street, Norwood, Massachusetts 02062 (the "Hospital"). In response to the Department of Public Health's (the "Department") letter dated March 23, 2022, and pursuant to 105 CMR 130.122(G), the Hospital submits the following response to the comments issued by the Department.

## **(1) Transportation**

As you are aware, since the Hospital temporarily closed in June 2020, the physicians from Steward Medical OB/GYN Group ("SMG") located at 886 Washington Street, Norwood, MA 02062 have worked with expectant mothers to have deliveries at St. Elizabeth's Medical Center ("SEMC"). Expectant mothers who are high risk and in emergent situations have been advised that if needed they should call 911, and can be transported by ambulance to SEMC, Good Samaritan Medical Center or another appropriate hospital. Ambulance travel times are significantly less than patient travel times and will face less travel time. This system has been in place since the Hospital temporarily closed in June 2020. For family and friends who wish to visit patients at SEMC but have no access to a vehicle, the following public transportation options are available:

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**Commuter Rail and Bus Line:** From the Norwood Depot stop in Norwood, take the Franklin Line Inbound to the Back Bay stop and exit. Walk 4 minutes to bus stop Saint James at Dartmouth Street and take the 501 Express Bus. You will exit at 7 Winship St. Walk approximately 8 minutes (0.4 miles) until you arrive at SEMC.

**Commuter Rail Only:** From the Norwood Depot stop in Norwood, take the Franklin Line Inbound to the South Station stop and exit. Take the Framingham/Worcester Line Outbound to the Boston Landing stop. Walk approximately 17 minutes (0.8 miles) until you arrive at SEMC.

## (2) Transportation

If an expectant mother is in labor or believes they are near delivery and cannot be driven to a hospital, but for some unforeseen reason does not call 911 or is hesitant to call for an ambulance, they can contact their obstetrician for guidance. As always, if a patient has any concern, the appropriate step is for the patient to call 911. If an expectant mother calls her obstetrician and the obstetrician believes the situation warrants an emergency transport to a hospital, the obstetrician can call 911 and provide an explanation to the expectant mother as to why an ambulance transport is appropriate for the situation. In addition, if an expectant mother is a MassHealth member, she may also utilize non-emergent transportation services, which are paid for by MassHealth (with prior approval), where the patient is unable to access public or private transportation. Upon request and approval, a friend or family member may join the MassHealth member.

Thank you for your attention to this matter. Please do not hesitate to contact me if you have any questions or require additional information.

Sincerely,



Andrew S. Levine

cc: Salvatore Perla  
Nathalie Hibble, Esq.  
Adam Marx  
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