

# HUSCH BLACKWELL

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September 25, 2023

## Via Email

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

Re: Baystate Wing Hospital Response

Dear Mr. Davis:

We write on behalf of Baystate Wing Hospital, a (the “Hospital”) in response to the Department of Public Health’s (the “Department”) letter, dated September 15, 2023, to request additional information regarding the closure plan for the Hospital’s inpatient psychiatric adult and geriatric services (the “Service”) located at 40 Wright Street, Palmer, MA 01069. In compliance with the regulatory requirements at 105 CMR 130.122, the Hospital offers the following information requested in the Department’s letter.

- 1. Suspension of Admissions: In your response dated September 5, 2023, you stated the Hospital would suspend admissions to the inpatient psychiatric unit approximately two weeks before the planned closure so inpatient episodes of care for all or most of the patients in the unit could be completed. The Department requests confirmation the new hospital will have the necessary capacity to take new admissions coinciding with Baystate Wing Hospitals suspension of admissions two weeks prior to closure.**

As joint venture partner with LifePoint in Valley Springs, Baystate Health meets regularly with Valley Springs administration to coordinate the wind down of the Wing units in order transition patients in a way that is responsive to the staffing capabilities of Valley Springs as it ramps up capacity. The goal of this close collaboration is to ensure minimal disruption for patients.

- 2. Medically Complex Inpatients: In your response dated September 5, 2023, you provided a brief description of how the Hospital intends to manage medically complex inpatients. The Department requests information on the current volume of patients at the Hospital with co-occurring medical needs along with additional information on the mechanism by which these patients will be referred to other inpatient psych units. Specifically, the Department requests information on whether**

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**patients with co-occurring medical needs will be admitted through the ED of alternative delivery sites or if there is a mechanism for direct admission. Additionally, the Department requests information on the *current* capacity of the alternative sites listed in your response to receive medical complex inpatients.**

The current volume of patients at Wing who require medical care is five (5) patients. The Hospital intends to wind down operation of its units so that there are no or very few such patients at the time of closure. Should there be a patient that requires continued inpatient psychiatric services at the time of closure, the patient will be transferred to another facility with the capability and capacity to care for both their psychiatric and medical needs. The patient will be transferred to an appropriate facility of their choice and the Hospital will arrange for transport. Hospital behavioral health administration will work directly with the receiving facility to ensure that continuity of care is established through confirmation that the facility can meet the needs of the patient and transfer of medical records. Patients will be directly admitted without first being seen in the ED.

The current capacity of alternative sites that can care for medically complex patients is as follows: Baystate Medical Center: 28 adult beds; Baystate Franklin Medical Center: 22 adult beds; Holyoke Hospital: 36 adults beds, 18 geriatric beds; and Cooley Dickinson Hospital: 22 adult beds.

We thank you for your attention to this matter. Please do not hesitate to contact Dominic Castillo, Esq., or me, if you have any questions or comments.

Sincerely,



Crystal Bloom

cc: E. Kelley, DPH  
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