

# Beth Israel Lahey Health, Inc.

DON # BILH-23082513-RE

## APPLICANT QUESTIONS

Responses should be sent to DoN staff at [DPH.DON@State.MA.US](mailto:DPH.DON@State.MA.US)

While you may submit each answer as available, please

- List question number and question for each answer you provide
- Submit responses as a separate word document, using the above application title and number as a running header and page numbers in the footer
- We accept answers on a rolling basis however, when providing the answer to the final question, submit all questions and answers in order in one final document.
- Submit responses in WORD or EXCEL; only use PDF's if absolutely necessary. **Whenever possible, include a table in data format (NOT pdf or picture) with the response.**

In order for us to review this project in a timely manner, please provide the responses by November 21, 2023.

### Proposed Project

1. Please provide the following details about the dormant LINAC unit:
  - a. What is the model/ year of the dormant LINAC?
    - i. Varian 2100EX with imaging arms, 2005.
  - b. What circumstances lead the machine to dormancy?
    - i. The LINAC was replaced with a Varian TrueBeam in early 2021. The replacement machine allows for increased clinical capabilities. Because the hospital had DoN approval for one LINAC when the TrueBeam was put in use, the 2100EX was put in a dormant state even though it is still a very useful machine.

### Factor 1a.ii. – Patient Panel Need

2. Page 7 of the Narrative states, "Patients are waiting longer to start radiation therapy so that they can schedule their treatments at a convenient time." Please provide data that helps to illustrate this statement.

BID-P performed a snapshot study of wait time data in 2022. The data below demonstrates that the average wait time between simulation and the start of treatment has increased since 2021.

Average number of working days between Simulation and Start				
	SBRT	IMRT	3D	Urgent
Benchmark (2021 data)	9	9	8	2
May 2022	9	9	9	3
June 2022	13	12	10	4
July 2022	16	14	12	3
August 2022	11	12	13	4

3. Pages 7 of the Narrative addresses the impact of downtime with only one unit. Please provide data on the hours of downtime for the existing LINAC unit from FY2021-FY2023.

Historical downtime data is provided below. While the existing LINAC unit is not yet experiencing significant downtime, there is concern that downtime will increase as the machine ages and there will be no back-up machine to ensure the reliability of services. These concerns are heightened given that the existing unit is currently operating well above capacity, with 436 new treatment starts in FY22, which is well above the

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recommended average of 237 patients per treatment machine. Continuing to operate the machine above capacity will put strain on the unit and likely lead to greater downtime as the machine ages.

### Historical LINAC Downtime

	FY21	FY22	FY23
LINAC in use (%)	99.0	99.4	99.71
Downtime events (#)	2	3	4
Total downtime hours	28.5	13.3	6.33

### Factor 1e – Community Engagement

4. Noted on Narrative p. 15, the Applicant presented the project to Hospital’s Patient and Family Advisory Committee, and to the Community Benefits and Advisory Committee. To better understand the Applicant’s community engagement efforts, please provide a brief summary of questions and feedback raised from *each* of these presentations.
- PFAC Presentation. During the Patient and Family Advisory (“PFAC”) meeting, Dr. Daniel Canaday and Jennifer Murphy, Senior Director for Oncology & Infusion Services, provided an overview of the need for the project, the intended benefits to patients, and next steps in the DON process. There were no questions or comments.
  - CBAC Presentation. During the Community Benefits Advisory Committee (“CBAC”) presentation, the same information was presented. One CBAC member was interested in understanding the current volume and projected increases in volume following the project and the timeline for the project. That same member also inquired whether the Department had ever considered providing treatment beyond the current hours. The presenter responded that services are occasionally offered outside of regular hours, but that permanently extending hours is challenging due to staff capacity.

### Factor 2a – Cost Containment

5. Will the Proposed Project result in changes in BID-P’s contracted rates for LINAC services or impact on costs (if yes, please provide details)?

No, there will be no changes to BID-P’s contracted rates for LINAC services.