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PUBLIC NOTICE

HEALTH

THE COMMISSIONER

Notice of Certificate of Need Call for a New Adult Cardiac Surgery Center in Certain Counties

Take notice that, in accordance with N.J.S.A. 26:2H-8 and N.J.A.C. 8:43G-7, 8:33, and 8:33E, Dr. Raynard Washington, Commissioner of the Department of Health (Department), hereby publishes notice that the Department is inviting certificate of need (CN) applications on a full review basis for a new adult regional cardiac surgery center in Gloucester, Camden, Atlantic, Cumberland, or Salem counties.

This notice is the result of a petition received by the Department that requested a CN call for new cardiac surgery services in the southwest region of New Jersey. The Department has considered this petition and concluded that the Department will entertain applications for a new adult regional cardiac surgery center from eligible hospitals in Gloucester, Camden, Atlantic, Cumberland, and Salem counties.

The Department's determination that a CN call is warranted is based solely upon a finding that the petition demonstrated the potential need for an additional cardiac surgery center pursuant to N.J.A.C. 8:33E-2.14. The determination does not constitute a finding that there is an actual need for a new program or that any applicant has satisfied the statutory criteria for CN approval. The Department reserves the right to disapprove all applications submitted in response to the CN call if the Department determines that applicants have not satisfactorily demonstrated need or compliance with the requirements of N.J.S.A. 26:2H-8 and N.J.A.C. 8:33, 8:33E, and 8:43G.

Accordingly, each applicant responding to this CN call shall independently demonstrate, through current, objective, and verifiable data, that there is an actual public need for the proposed service. Applicants must establish, to the satisfaction of the Department, that sufficient patient volume exists to support the proposed program while maintaining access, quality of care, and the viability of existing programs, consistent with N.J.S.A. 26:2H-8 and all applicable CN standards.

N.J.A.C. 8:33E-2 sets forth CN requirements for new and existing regional cardiac surgery centers. Facilities are eligible to apply for a new cardiac surgery center if the following requirements are met:

1. The applicant is licensed pursuant to N.J.A.C. 8:43G; and
2. The applicant can demonstrate that it will be able to meet the criteria at N.J.A.C. 8:33E-2.3(a) and 8:43G-7.2.

The Department will review CN applications for compliance with all statutory and regulatory provisions. The applicant must demonstrate it can meet the requirements set forth in this notice, in addition to the information required in Application Form CN-3, N.J.S.A. 26:2H-8, and N.J.A.C. 8:33E and 8:33-4. Applications will be accepted for processing in accordance with N.J.A.C. 8:33-4.5.

Take further notice that the Department acknowledges the following existing cardiac surgery centers in the affected counties:

AtlantiCare Regional Medical Center	Atlantic County
Cooper University Hospital	Camden County
Virtua Our Lady of Lourdes Hospital	Camden County

Pursuant to N.J.A.C. 8:33E-2.14, the Department invites existing cardiac surgery centers in Gloucester, Camden, Atlantic, Cumberland, and Salem counties (Affected Facility) to file a written submission with the Department in response to any submitted CN applications that have been deemed complete in accordance with N.J.A.C. 8:33-4.5. Copies of complete CN applications may be obtained through this link: https://www.nj.gov/health/opra/requests/.

Written submissions filed by an affected facility may address the anticipated impact on quality of care of the proposed new program on the affected facility, in accordance with N.J.S.A. 26:2H-8, and may also document the impact of technological and/or medical advances on the future need for cardiac surgery services in Gloucester, Camden, Atlantic, Cumberland, and Salem counties.

Geographic areas to be served: Gloucester, Camden, Atlantic, Cumberland, and Salem counties.

Prospective applicants may obtain a CN application for full review on the Department's website at www.nj.gov/health/forms and shall submit the complete application using electronic mail to cnl-surveys@doh.nj.gov with the subject "Adult Cardiac CN Call" with one written copy to:

New Jersey Department of Health

Cardiac CN Call

PO Box 358

Trenton, New Jersey 08625-0358

Further, affected facilities may submit a response to the applications using the same electronic mail address with the subject “Adult Cardiac CN Call” and post office box address listed above.

In accordance with N.J.A.C. 8:33-1.2(d), CN applications shall be reviewed for conformity with the rules in effect on the date the CN application is deemed complete for processing.

Date application is due: February 15, 2027.

Date by which the application(s) shall be deemed complete: June 15, 2027.

Date by which affected facilities shall submit a request to obtain copies of the applications: June 30, 2027.

Date by which affected facilities shall submit a response to the applications: August 30, 2027.

Date completeness review decision is anticipated to be issued: November 30, 2027.

Date State Health Planning Board is scheduled to review applications and submit recommendations to the Commissioner: March 1, 2028.