VISTA
HEALTH
SYSTEM

June 25, 2015

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HEALTH FACILITIES &
SERVICES REVIEW BOARD

Mike Constantino
Illinois Health Facilities and
Services Review Board
525 West Jefferson, 2nd Floor
Springfield, IL 62761

Dear Mr. Constantino:

Please find the enclosed letter of support for Vista Medical Center East Project: 15-026.

Please feel free to call or contact me if you have any questions.

Sincerely,

Barbara J. Martin
President and CEO

Cc: Clare C. Ranalli

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May 22, 2015

Dear Members of the Illinois Health Facilities & Services Review Board:

As the Patient Care Manager of 4W at Vista Medical Center East in Waukegan, I wholeheartedly support the transition of our hospital to all-private rooms. Currently on our floor, we have 9 private rooms that are designated for our oncology patients. Many times, there are 10 or more oncology patients who are in need of private rooms and need to be placed in semi-private rooms. We encourage family involvement, and when they are placed in semi-private rooms, we can't always accommodate the families. For example, a close family member is unable to stay the night in the room with their loved one.

We have a total of 27 rooms on 4W at the present time, so that means two-thirds of them are semi-private. This floor also is the home of Vista's Joint Center of Excellence where we treat and care for a high volume of orthopedic patients. The goal of the program is to involve the patients and their coaches as much as possible, so having all-private rooms would allow the patients to benefit from the added support of their coaches throughout the day and evening hours.

Having all-private rooms would greatly enhance our patients' experience at Vista in terms of perceived safety, quiet, cleanliness and privacy. In summary, I speak on behalf of our entire staff of nurses on 4W in asking for your support and your vote in favor of this proposal to renovate and reconfigure Vista Medical Center East to convert to all-private rooms.

Sincerely,

Savannah Pounders RN

Savannah Pounders, RN
Patient Care Manager, 4W
Vista Medical Center East

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May 26, 2015

Dear Members of the Illinois Health Facilities & Services Review Board:

I am the Patient Care Manager of our Progressive Care Unit (PCU) and 5W, both located on the 5th floor of Vista Medical Center East. Our PCU consists of 37 private rooms and is a step-down unit from the ICU where we treat mainly patients with chest pain, ischemic stroke, as well as post pacemaker, post cardiac cath, post angioplasty and more.

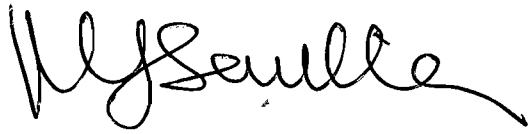
Our 5W unit is a medical-surgical floor where we take care of patients a varying nature with different conditions. In some cases, patients on our 5W unit are dealing with behavioral issues – such as alcohol dependence, substance abuse, dementia, or other behavioral issues. The 30 beds in our 5W unit are in semi-private rooms, which means there are two beds per room.

In our private rooms in the PCU, our patients are much more comfortable since they don't need to deal with other patients, and the rooms are quieter. For patients who are recovering from surgeries and other procedures, this is a tremendous benefit – not only for them, but for their families and their visitors.

On the 5W unit, however, patients share the same bathroom, and the room is not nearly as quiet or private since their roommate may have visitors at any hour of the day or night. This is particularly challenging when one or both of the patients has a behavioral issue. Having private rooms for these patients will greatly improve the quality of their stay here at Vista, and result in better patient satisfaction all around.

On behalf of the nursing staff at Vista Health System, please vote "yes" in support of Vista's proposal to convert to all private rooms.

Sincerely,



Noemi Sevilla, RN
Patient Care Manager, PCU & 5W
Vista Medical Center East

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May 26, 2015

Dear Members of the Illinois Health Facilities & Services Review Board:

I am a Registered Nurse and an Oncology Certified Nurse in Vista's Cancer Center. We treat our cancer inpatients on 4W, which is on the 4th floor of Vista Medical Center East in Waukegan.

We are fortunate to accommodate most of our cancer patients in private rooms on this floor. However, during times when our census is high, that may not always be the case. That means a cancer patient might have a roommate that is only separated by a curtain.

What happens then, unfortunately, is that our oncologists, nurses and patient care technicians must discuss the cancer patient's condition and treatment with him or her with a roommate in a bed only a few feet away. No matter how discreet we try to be, it can sometimes be next to impossible to keep those conversations fully private. Converting to all-private rooms will greatly improve our ability to fully respect our patients' dignity with regards to their personal health information. Our cancer patients and their family members do not want or need others to hear those critical conversations. Likewise, this can be very uncomfortable for the neighboring patients.

At the same time, all-private rooms will significantly help us care for patients who come to us with any kind of infectious disease or virus. We follow the strictest standards of care with regards to cleanliness, hand sanitation and all other precautions. Still, being able to isolate those patients will be an important benefit to all patients by reducing the risk of infections being spread. This also will help to protect the safety of our clinical staff.

Thank you for your consideration, and I ask that you support Vista's proposal to convert to all private rooms.

Sincerely,

Michele Newby RN

Michele Newby, RN, OCN
Oncology Nurse Navigator
Vista Health System