



STATE OF WASHINGTON

DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH

*Olympia, Washington 98504*

September 15, 2015

Ronald G. Rehn, DHA, Chief Executive Officer  
Providence St. Joseph's Hospital  
500 East Webster  
Chewelah, Washington 99109

Dear Mr. Rehn:

RE: DOR 16-06

The Department of Health has completed its review of your exemption request for Providence St. Joseph's Hospital to increase its total number of swing beds from 5 to 25. Below is the information considered and the facts relied upon by the department's Certificate of Need Program in reaching its conclusion regarding your project.

**INFORMATION CONSIDERED**

- Exemption request received on August 28, 2015
- Revised Code of Washington (RCW) 70.38
- Washington Administrative Code (WAC) 246-310
- Department of Health Integrated Licensing and Regulatory System (ILRS) data

**FACTS CONSIDERED**

- Providence St. Joseph Hospital is a Critical Access Hospital located at 500 East Webster in Chewelah, within Stevens County [99109].
- The hospital is currently licensed for 65 acute care beds. The licensed beds are broken down by services below.

Number of Beds	Services
25	General Medical Surgical
40	Nursing home

- Included within the 25 general medical surgical beds are five swing beds as defined in Washington Administrative Code 246-310-010(58).<sup>1</sup>
- This project proposes to increase the number of swing beds from 5 to 25.

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<sup>1</sup> Swing beds means up to the first five hospital beds designated by an eligible rural hospital which are available to provide either acute care or nursing home services.

- The 40-bed nursing home located on Providence St. Joseph Hospital's campus is one of three nursing homes in Stevens County. The nursing home is licensed under Revised Code of Washington 70.41 [hospital licensing regulation].
- For the remaining two nursing homes in Stevens County, Buena Vista Healthcare has 40 beds and is located in Colville; Prestige Care and Rehabilitation-Pinewood has 92 beds and is also located in Colville. Both nursing homes are licensed under Revised Code of Washington 18.51 (nursing home regulation).

### **CONCLUSION**

Based on the totality of information considered, the department concludes the proposed increase in swing beds would be exempt from Certificate of Need review as allowed under Revised Code of Washington 70.38.105(4)(e). This exemption is not transferable and the conclusions reached concerning this project are based on the facts about this facility and it should not be assumed the department would reach the same conclusion in future exemption requests. This project may also need Department of Health approval for a construction plan and facility licensing or certification, as well as other federal or local jurisdiction permits.

### **APPEAL OPTION**

This decision may be appealed. You or any person with standing may request an adjudicative proceeding to contest this decision within 28 calendar days from the date of this letter. The notice of appeal must be filed according to the provisions of Revised Code of Washington 34.05 and Washington Administrative Code 246-310-610. A request for an adjudicative proceeding must be received within the 28 days at one of the addresses listed below.

Mailing Address:

Department of Health  
Adjudicative Service Unit  
Mail Stop 47879  
Olympia, WA 98504-7879

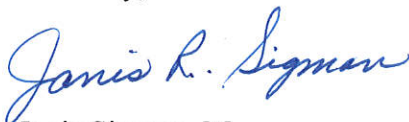
Physical Address

Department of Health  
Adjudicative Service Unit  
111 Israel Road SE  
Tumwater, WA 98501

We monitor projects until completed. We do this with quarterly progress reports. At least 30 days before the report's due date, you will receive a form to complete and return.

If you have any questions regarding this determination, you can call me at (360) 236-2955.

Sincerely,



Janis Sigman, Manager  
Certificate of Need Program  
Community Health Systems