

IMPROVING CONNECTICUT'S CERTIFICATE OF NEED PROCESS

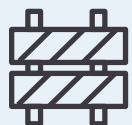
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Together, We Can Remove Barriers to Healthcare Access and Support the State's Economy



Certificate of Need (CON) should be a tool to support world-class healthcare and economic competitiveness in Connecticut.



Delays and excessive administrative burden and bureaucracy in the current CON process create barriers to healthcare access and affordability and hamper jobs development and economic growth.



By working in partnership with state officials and policymakers, we can improve the system, adopt best practices, put patients first, and achieve our shared goal to improve access to high-quality healthcare and grow the state's economy.

How to Make the CON Process **Work Better** for Patients and Communities

Improve Access to Care for Patients:

- **Streamline the current process**, adopt efficient, enforceable timelines applicable to Office of Health Strategy (OHS) processes, and put reasonable limits on timeline extensions
 - Add a provision automatically approving a CON if OHS deadlines are not met
 - Ensure processes intended to expedite review, such as negotiations for an agreed settlement, achieve the intended goals of the arrangement and do not add additional requirements or delays to the process
 - Prohibit OHS from requiring applicants to meet requirements or obligations that are not set forth in statute or regulation
 - Avoid delays that make it more challenging to deliver care to patients by limiting redundant requests for information, relying only on information that is available to all parties as part of the record, and requiring timeliness in notifying applicants and holding hearings
- **Create an expedited review for certain categories and services** such as the establishment, transfer, or expansion of behavioral health and substance use disorder treatment services, for the acquisition of imaging equipment, and for certain terminations of services that would allow for resources to be directed to best meet patient needs with efficiency
- **Eliminate the CON requirement in certain situations** to make the entire process more efficient, including for the relocation of any outpatient service within the same municipality, a reduction or increase in the number of inpatient or outpatient beds by nine or fewer in a two-year cycle, the termination of inpatient or outpatient services due to insufficient patient volume or the inability to recruit or retain an adequate number of providers, or the termination of any subspecialty surgical service – this will allow resources to be best used to meet shifting patient needs
- **Authorize a committee review of the structure of the CON process**, including review of the cost to healthcare providers due to delays and inefficiencies in the CON process and an examination of the CON process in other states, including, but not limited to, New York and Massachusetts

Protect Patients and Communities:

- **Ensure all entities providing services or conducting activities governed by the CON process are held to the same standards.** Private equity transactions involving services or entities governed by the CON process must be held to the same standards as not-for-profit entities
- **Ensure consistent application of the official statutory principles for CON review** and eliminate the use of non-germane provisions of approvals and settlement agreements that exceed statutory framework. CON must not be used to further policy goals outside of the direction of the legislature. CON negotiations and approvals should not be bogged down with the attachment of unrelated policy riders, a practice that slows the process today
- **Consider financial impact and financial feasibility** as key principles to every review to ensure the CON process enhances, and does not diminish, healthcare affordability and the economic vitality of the healthcare sector



[**Learn more.**](#)

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