



# Certificates of Need

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# What is the Green Mountain Care Board?

**Board Mission:** To improve the health of Vermonters through a high-quality, accessible, and sustainable health care system.

## What makes the Green Mountain Care Board unique?

- GMCB is **transparent**. Regulatory decisions are made in public, with data, evidence, and staff recommendations presented at fully noticed public meetings that are open to all.
- GMCB is **independent**. The five board members are appointed to six-year terms, longer than most Governors' administrations.
- GMCB takes a **system-wide view**. GMCB plays a unique role in Vermont's health care system, regulating key industry players, driving reform efforts, and evaluating our health care system. This integrated regulatory approach enables GMCB to understand how regulatory decisions impact one another and to account for this cross-system impact.

# GMCB Duties Include...

- Review and approve health insurance rate increases annually
- Review and approve hospital budgets annually
- Review applications for Certificate of Need (CON)
- Implement the All-Payer ACO Model (APM)
- Oversee Vermont Accountable Care Organizations (ACOs)
- Review and approve Vermont Health Information Exchange Plan, and budget oversight for Vermont Information Technology Leaders
- Manage various health care datasets
- Evaluate Vermont's health care spending and utilization
- Report to the Legislature as required annually

# What is a CON?

A Certificate of Need is a certificate issued by the Green Mountain Care Board upon the Board's determination that a new health care project meets the applicable statutory criteria related to access, quality, cost, need and appropriate allocation of resources.

New health care projects in Vermont must obtain a Certificate of Need from the Green Mountain Care Board prior to implementation of the health care project. The Certificate of Need process is governed by state statute and Board regulations.

# Purpose of CONs

The Certificate of Need process is intended to:

- Prevent unnecessary duplication of health care facilities and services,
- Guide the establishment of facilities and services in order to best serve public needs,
- Promote cost containment, and
- Ensure the provision and equitable allocation of high quality health care services and resources to all Vermonters.

# When is a CON needed?

Examples of a new “health care project” are:

- The construction or development of a health care facility\*
- The offering of a home health service or transfer in ownership of a home health service
- The purchase or lease of a piece of diagnostic and therapeutic equipment\*
- The offering of a new health care service or technology\*
- A change from one licensing period to the next in the number of licensed beds of a health care facility

\*Board jurisdiction subject to minimum capital expenditure or cost thresholds

# Board Review

The Board reviews an application for:

*Alignment* – the project’s alignment with statewide health care reform goals and principles, including consistency with the Health Resource Allocation Plan.

*Cost* – whether the cost of the project is reasonable.

*Need* – whether there is an identifiable, existing, or reasonably anticipated need for the proposed project.

*Improve Quality or Access* – whether the project will improve the quality of health care in the State or provide greater access to health care.

# Certificate

The Certificate of Need will include:

- (a) the applicant, name, cost and scope of the new health care project authorized by the Certificate of Need, including, as appropriate, a description of the authorized service area;
- (b) conditions applicable to the new health care project, if any;
- (c) a statement as to how long the Certificate of Need shall be in effect;
- (d) the amount of time the applicant has to implement and complete the new health care project; and
- (e) the implementation report schedule and reporting requirements, if any.



# Resources

The Certificate of Need process is outlined in statute:

[Title 18, Chapter 221, Subchapter 005: Health Facility Planning](#)

And further outlined by rule:

[Green Mountain Care Board, Rule 4.000](#)

For more information, see GMCB Certificate of Need webpage:

<http://gmcboard.vermont.gov/con/issued>.