

PUBLIC NOTICE

HEALTH

THE COMMISSIONER

Notice of Postponement of Certificate of Need Call for New Pediatric Intensive Care Beds

Take notice that, in compliance with N.J.S.A. 26:2H-1 et seq. (P.L. 1971, c. 136, as amended), and N.J.A.C. 8:33, Jeffrey A. Brown, Acting Commissioner, New Jersey Department of Health (Department), hereby publishes notice that the September 1, 2025, call for certificate of need (CN) applications for new pediatric intensive care beds (PICU), is hereby postponed.

On October 2, 2017, the Department issued a certificate of need call for PICU beds. See 49 N.J.R. 3367(c). The call was limited to only those providers that are currently licensed to provide pediatric intensive care services in Essex, Middlesex, Monmouth, Morris, and Passaic counties. In 2018, four facilities (Robert Wood Johnson University Hospital – Middlesex County, Jersey Shore University Medical Center – Monmouth County, Morristown Medical Center – Morris County, and St. Joseph's University Medical Center – Passaic County), were awarded a total of 22 PICU beds.

In April and May of 2023, the Department surveyed the facilities that were previously awarded PICU beds. The data the Department received from the facilities indicated St. Joseph's Regional Medical Center had not implemented the six PICU beds for Passaic County that it was awarded in 2018. Pursuant to the provisions at N.J.A.C. 8:33-3.10(a)1, CN awards are valid for five years, unless otherwise indicated by the CN call. This means that the CN award for the unimplemented beds is no longer valid.

Regardless, the Department must continue its efforts in determining whether a need exists on a Statewide level for PICU beds. Therefore, the Department is conducting a survey to obtain updated information to determine if a need exists for more beds. The survey seeks the number of patient admissions, the number of patient days, and the average patient length of stay from each facility with PICU beds.

This postponement will allow the Department sufficient time to complete its evaluation of need, and to also provide potential applicants and affected parties sufficient time to respond appropriately to a certificate of need call notice in the event the Department determines that a call is appropriate. If the Department proceeds with the call, then a call for PICU beds will be published in an upcoming publication of the New Jersey Register, providing the necessary time for both potential applicants and interested parties to respond to the call notice. In the alternative, if the determination is made to cancel the call, then the Department will publish a cancelation notice in the New Jersey Register.