

MARYLAND HEALTH CARE COMMISSION

Modified Emergency Certificate of Need

TO: Jocelyn Gill, MSN-Ed, RN
Administrator
Comprehensive Nursing Services, Inc.

May 12, 2026
Date

RE: Expansion of pediatric home health services
across Maryland

EM-HH23-21-044
Docket No.

DESCRIPTION OF EMERGENCY PROJECT

This Modified Emergency Certificate of Need authorizes Comprehensive Nursing Services, Inc. d/b/a Comprehensive Home Health Services, an existing Maryland home health agency (Maryland license HH7164), located at 8817 Belair Road, Suite 203, Baltimore, MD 21236 to expand its pediatric home health services across Maryland. Comprehensive Nursing Services is currently authorized to provide home health services in Baltimore City and Anne Arundel, Baltimore, Carroll, Cecil, Harford, and Howard Counties. On April 17, 2026, the Executive Director of the Maryland Health Care Commission issued an emergency certificate of need authorizing Comprehensive Nursing Services to provide pediatric home health services in Washington County, Docket No. EM-HH23-21-044. This modified emergency certificate of need supersedes and replaces the previously issued emergency certificate of need, and expands the authorized service area to all remaining Maryland jurisdictions: Allegany, Calvert, Caroline, Charles, Dorchester, Frederick, Garrett, Kent, Montgomery, Prince George's, Queen Anne's, St. Mary's, Somerset, Talbot, Washington, Wicomico, and Worcester Counties.

Comprehensive Nursing Services, Inc. will provide skilled nursing services, home health aide services, and physical therapy.

Circumstances Requiring Issuance of Emergency CON

There is currently a dearth of home health agencies serving pediatric patients across the State. There are only six home health agencies in Maryland serving pediatric patients and half serve only one county. Further, there are no providers currently serving pediatric patients in rural counties located in Western Maryland and on the Eastern Shore. SpiriTrust Lutheran Home Care & Hospice (Maryland license HH 7153) previously provided pediatric home health services in Carroll, Frederick, and Washington Counties. However, the home health agency ceased serving pediatric patients after it was acquired by Adoration Home Health Westminster, a subsidiary of BrightSpring Health Services, in 2024.

This unmet need for pediatric home health services leads to risks of delayed discharges from acute care settings, delayed initiation of ordered skilled nursing visits following discharges, increased caregiver burden for families managing complex medical needs without timely professional support, elevated risk for avoidable emergency department utilization and hospital readmissions, interruption in critical newborn, pediatric, and maternal-child follow-up care and reduced continuity of care for high-risk pediatric patients.

ORDER

Upon consideration of the request of Comprehensive Nursing Services, suitably detailed information provided by the Office of Health Care Quality (OHCQ) and others, and in consultation with the Chair of the Maryland Health Care Commission (MHCC), Dr. Douglas Jacobs, MHCC Executive Director, determined that the lack of sufficient resources for pediatric home health patients in Maryland presents hazards for patients, as provided by COMAR 10.24.01.20A. Therefore, it is, on May 12, 2026, ordered by the Executive Director that a Emergency Certificate of Need be issued for the project.

Approvals by Maryland Department of Health

This Emergency Certificate of Need does not constitute a license or replace any approvals for other aspects of the project that are required by the OHCQ or other divisions of the Maryland Department of Health to provide pediatric home health services.

Further Action

This Emergency Certificate of Need will be considered for confirmation by the Maryland Health Care Commission at its next scheduled meeting on May 21, 2026.

Duration of the Emergency Certificate of Need

If confirmed, this Emergency Certificate of Need shall remain in effect until September 28, 2026, but may be extended beyond that date for good cause shown.

If Comprehensive Nursing Services desires to retain the capacity of the project approved in an emergency CON shall, it shall file a letter of intent at least 30 days before the termination of the emergency CON, followed by a CON application in accordance with 10.24.01.20E.

MARYLAND HEALTH CARE COMMISSION



Douglas Jacobs, MD. MPH
Executive Director, MHCC

cc: Dr. Meena Seshamani, MD, PhD, Secretary of Health
Tia Witherspoon, Executive Director, Office of Health Care Quality
Earl Stoner, Health Officer, Washington County

Gena M. Spear, Health Officer, Allegany County
Dr. Tonii Gedin, Health Officer, Anne Arundel County
Dr. Michelle Taylor, Health Officer, Baltimore City
Dr. Lucy Wilson, Health Officer, Baltimore County
Dr. Nimfa Teneza-Mora, Health Officer, Calvert County
Robin Cahall, Health Officer, Caroline County
Dr. Matthew Levy, Health Officer, Carroll County
Karl Rattay, Health Officer, Cecil County
Dr. Dianna Abney, Health Officer, Charles County
Dr. Casey Scott, Health Officer, Dorchester County
Dr. Barbara Brookmyer, Health Officer, Frederick County
Jennifer Hare, Health Officer, Garrett County
Lauren Levy, Health Officer, Harford County
Dr. Maura Rossman, Health Officer, Howard County
Carla M. Thorpe, Health Officer, Kent County
Dr. Kisha Davis, Health Officer, Montgomery County
Toyin Opesanmi, Health Officer, Prince George's County
Brice Strang, Health Officer, Queen Anne's County
Dr. Meenakshi Brewster, Health Officer, St. Mary's County
Danielle Weber, Health Officer, Somerset County
Dr. Fahmi Fahmi, Health Officer, Talbot County
Matthew McConaughy, Health Officer, Wicomico County
Rebecca L. Jones, Health Officer, Worcester County