



Alan Levine
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December 9, 2020

The Honorable Lisa Piercey, MD, MBA, FAAP
Commissioner
Tennessee Department of Health
710 James Robertson Parkway
Nashville, TN 37243

Re: Request for Extension of Temporary Suspension

Dear Commissioner Piercey:

Thank you for your letter dated November 5, 2020 that provided your approval to extend the temporary suspension of Section 4.03(a)(ii) of the Tennessee Terms of Certification (TOC) allowing Ballad Health to continue the temporary suspension of inpatient services at Hawkins County Memorial Hospital and Unicoi County Hospital due to COVID-19 through December 31, 2020. The Department requested Ballad Health provide a plan to reinstate inpatient services at Unicoi County Hospital and resubmission of the plan to reinstate services at Hawkins County Memorial Hospital if there are any changes to the plan as submitted on October 16, 2020, at least 14 days prior to the termination of the extension.

Given the current surge and the fact that Ballad Health appears to be on track to hit record numbers of COVID-19 inpatients by the end of December, indicating a continued strain on system resources, we are requesting a further extension of 120 days of the temporary suspension of Section 4.03(a)(ii) of the TOC allowing Ballad Health to continue the temporary suspension of inpatient services at Unicoi County Hospital. We are pleased to share that we have designated Unicoi County Hospital as the Ballad Health facility where we will administer the investigational FDA emergency monoclonal antibody therapy, bamlanivimab, which recently received FDA emergency use authorization. This therapy is given to those with positive results of direct SARS-CoV-2 viral testing who are at high risk for progressing to severe COVID-19 and/or hospitalization.

Ballad Health plans to reinstate inpatient services at Hawkins County Memorial Hospital in accordance with the plan provided on October 16, 2020.

The continued support of the state is critical to us as we work together to ensure the public health and safety of our common constituents.

Please contact us if you have any questions regarding this matter.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Alan M. Levine". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first letters of the first and last names being capitalized and prominent.

Alan Levine

cc: Herbert H. Slatery III
Tennessee Attorney General and Reporter

Janet M. Kleinfelter
Tennessee Deputy Attorney General

Judi Knecht, Interim COPA Director
Tennessee Department of Health

Jeff Ockerman
Tennessee Department of Health

The Honorable Norman Oliver, MD, MA, State Health Commissioner
Virginia Department of Health

Erik Bodin, Director, Office of Licensure and Certification
Virginia Department of Health

Allyson Tysinger
Virginia Senior Assistant Attorney General

Larry Fitzgerald
Tennessee COPA Monitor

Kevin Meyer, COPA Analyst
Virginia Department of Health

Dennis Barry
Southwest Virginia Health Authority

Tim Belisle, EVP & General Counsel
Ballad Health

Marvin Eichorn, EVP & Chief Administrative Officer
Ballad Health

Karen Guske, SVP COPA Compliance Officer
Ballad Health