

Temporary Permission for Program Flexibility for Increased Patient Accommodations

This form is to be used ONLY for program flexibility requests when hospitals temporarily need to comply with licensing requirements by using alternative concepts, methods, procedures, techniques, equipment, or personnel.

Hospitals are required to submit a program flexibility request to the California Department of Public Health (CDPH), Licensing & Certification (L&C) Program through their local district office (DO) for written approval. This form is a mechanism to expedite the request and approval process in emergency situations.

<https://www.cdph.ca.gov/Programs/CHCQ/LCP/Pages/DistrictOffices.aspx>

Facility Name Petaluma Valley Hospital			Date of Request 7/29/2020	
License Number 110000001			Facility Phone 7073283749	Facility Fax Number 7075474637
Facility Address 400 N. McDowell Blvd.				
E-mail Address [REDACTED]			Contact Person Name [REDACTED]	
City Petaluma	State CA	Zip Code 94954		

Approval Request

Complete one form for each request

- Tent use (High patient volume) Bed use
 Space conversion (other than tent use) Over bedding

Start Date: 7/29/2020

End Date: 10/29/2020

Program Flex Request

What regulation are you requesting program flexibility for? 70217 Nursing Service Staff (10) & (11)

Justification for the Request

- A disease outbreak (verifiable through sources such as the local emergency medical service agency (LEMSA), local Public Health Officer, CDPH Division of Communicable Disease Control, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention) is present in the community where the hospital is located or in a contiguous area(s) causing a rapid influx (surge) of patients to the hospital. Examples of this type of surge include: Increased cases of seasonal influenza, onset of a severe acute respiratory syndrome-type or other highly contagious virus requiring acute care, an epidemic/pandemic, a bioterrorism agent, or a declared public health emergency.
- An emergency resulting in the need for increased patient accommodations has occurred in the community where the hospital is located or in a contiguous area(s) causing a rapid influx (surge) of patients to the hospital. Examples of this type of surge include: A natural or human-caused disaster, a crime incident or transportation accident resulting in numerous mass casualties, an emergency causing the evacuation of patients or diversions from another hospital (LEMSA diversion has been implemented).

Justification for the Request

Petaluma Valley Hospital is requesting a waiver for decreasing staffing ratios for telemetry to a 1:5 ratio until nursing replacements can be found. The hospital is having staffing challenges to due recent resignation and increased Nursing leave of absence.

Exhausting Available Alternatives

The hospital must exhaust available alternatives before requesting increased patient accommodations. Check all that apply:

- Rescheduling non-emergent surgeries and diagnostic procedures.
- Transferring patients to other beds or discharge as appropriate.
- Setting clinics for non-emergency cases (if possible).
- Requesting ambulance diversion from LEMSA, if appropriate.

Other: **Petaluma Valley Hospital is requesting a staffing waiver as is experiencing staffing ratio challenges due to COVID19 Pandemic.**

Facility Name	License Number	Request Date
Petaluma Valley Hospital	110000001	7/28/2020

Adequate Staff, Equipment and Space

The hospital must make arrangements for adequate staffing, equipment and space for increased patient accommodations. Check all that apply:

- A plan is in place for staff if the request is for use of alternate space.
- A plan is in place for equipment if the request is for use of alternate space.
- The proposed space for care of patients provides sufficient square footage to ensure access for safe care.

Other: **Additional Information**

Provide a brief description of your conditions and explain the need for program flexibility. Provide a brief description of the alternative concepts, methods, procedures, techniques, equipment or personnel to be used, and the conditions under which this program flexibility will be utilized. Attach additional supporting documentation as needed.

Petaluma Valley Hospital (PVH) is in need of a program flex to go out of Title 22 mandated staffing ratios on the medical/surgical/ telemetry unit. PVH continues to see an increase in COVID positive patients requiring hospitalization, area Skilled Nursing Facilities and Acute Rehabilitation centers are closed to admissions and readmissions of both COVID positive and non COVID patients, increasing patient volume and length of hospital stay. Increased needs and care for the COVID19 positive patients is requiring medical surgical patient staff ratio from 1:5 to a 1:3 ratio to ensure patient safety, safe practice, and ensure limited occupational exposure for COVID19 patients. PVH is experiencing increased Nursing leaves of absence, some COVID19 related testing through the employee health department requires 3-7 days off to allow for testing results to return. The Manager and Assistant Manager are now regularly scheduled for direct patient care duties to ensure safe patient care. Nurse replacements have been requested, the process will take at least 60 days. Requesting Staffing ratio of 1:5 for telemetry patients and 1:6 medical surgical patients with no diagnosis of COVID19. The unit does have full time telemetry technician that works with nursing. PVH has been on treat and transfer status for 3 of 7 days last week.

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Signature of person requesting program flexibility

Area Director Accreditation/Regulatory
Readiness/Licensing

Printed name [Redacted]

Note: Approval for tent use, space conversion, bed use and over-bedding will be time limited and dependent on the facts presented that substantiate the emergency. Initial approval may be given verbally by the local L&C DO; however, a signed written approval must be distributed (faxed) to the hospital and filed in the hospital's facility folder.

For CDPH Use Only:

CDPH Licensing and Certification Approval:

Permission Granted from: 7/30/2020 to 9/30/2020

Permission Denied: Briefly describe why request was denied in comments / conditions below:

Comments / conditions: Approved with attached conditions.

[Horizontal lines for additional comments]

[Redacted signature]



SONIA Y. ANGELL, MD, MPH
State Public Health Officer & Director

State of California—Health and Human Services Agency
California Department of Public Health



GAVIN NEWSOM
Governor

July 30, 2020

[REDACTED]
Area Director Accreditation, Licensing, & Regulatory Readiness
PETALUMA VALLEY HOSPITAL
400 North McDowell Blvd.
Petaluma, CA 94954

RE: Program Flexibility Request for 70217(a)(10) &(11) attachment to CDPH 5000A

Conditions for Approval as follows:

Facility will continue to make a good faith effort to exhaust all alternatives and mitigation efforts, as described in their staffing waiver request and the additional information they provided.

Facility will resume mandatory staffing levels as soon as feasible and follow all other conditions specified in AFL 20-26:3:

- Hospitals shall continue to comply with adverse event and unusual occurrence reporting requirements specified in HSC section 1279.1 and Title 22 California Code of Regulations section 70737(a).
- Hospitals shall report any substantial staffing or supply shortages that jeopardize patient care or disrupt operations.
- Hospitals shall continue to provide necessary care in accordance with patient needs and make all reasonable efforts to act in the best interest of patients.
- Hospitals shall follow their disaster response plan.
- Hospitals shall follow infection control guidelines from the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) related to COVID-19.
- Hospitals shall comply with directives from their local public health department, to the extent that there is no conflict with federal or state law or directives or CDPH AFLs.

