

OFFICE OF THE BISHOP  
DIOCESE OF MANCHESTER

September 23, 2019

Joseph Pepe, M.D.  
President and CEO  
Catholic Medical Center  
100 McGregor Street  
Manchester, NH 03102

Re: Proposed Combination Agreement

Dear Dr. Pepe:

Let me begin by expressing my deep gratitude to you, the Board of Trustees, the senior leadership and staff of Catholic Medical Center, for all that continues to be done to protect the essential Catholic identity of CMC. The significant time and efforts that have been devoted to the consideration and vetting of a proposed Combination Agreement will, in turn, guarantee a better future serving the health care needs of all in New Hampshire and its Catholic Diocese.

Therefore, please find enclosed with this letter my official grant of the necessary *nihil obstat* to proceed with the Combination Agreement by and among Dartmouth-Hitchcock Health, GraniteOne Health, Catholic Medical Center, CMC Healthcare System, Alliance Ambulatory Services, Alliance Health Services, Catholic Medical Center Physician Practice Associates, Huggins Hospital, and Monadnock Community Hospital, as set forth in the amended documents presented to me on September 22, 2019.

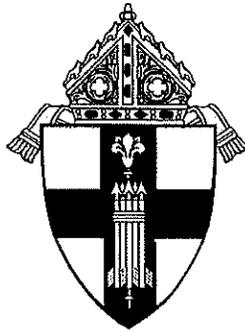
This is truly a significant moment for CMC and a unique opportunity to grow and strengthen Catholic healthcare in New Hampshire. Grateful for all that you do to extend Christ's healing ministry to those in need of care, I remain

Sincerely in Christ,

Most Reverend Peter A. Libasci, D.D.  
Bishop of Manchester

Enclosure

cc: Derek McDonald, Bishop's Delegate for Healthcare and Chair, CMC Healthcare System  
Board of Trustees, Catholic Medical Center  
John G. Cronin, Esq., Chair, Catholic Medical Center Board of Trustees



**PETER ANTHONY LIBASCI**

**By the Grace of God  
BISHOP OF MANCHESTER**

- Having studied the proposed documents presented to me on 27 August 2019, and reviewed the proposed amendments presented on 22 September 2019;
- Having received the support of the various boards and administrators of Catholic Medical Center Healthcare System and Catholic Medical Center;
- Having consulted with experts in Catholic bioethics;
- And having consulted with experts in Canon Law; hereby

grant my

***Nihil obstat***

For the

Combination Agreement by and among Dartmouth-Hitchcock Health, GraniteOne Health, Catholic Medical Center, CMC Healthcare System, Alliance Ambulatory Services, Alliance Health Services, Catholic Medical Center Physician Practice Associates, Huggins Hospital, and Monadnock Community Hospital.

Given at Manchester, New Hampshire, on the 23<sup>rd</sup> day of September 2019.

Most Reverend Peter A. Libasci, D.D.  
Bishop of Manchester

Meredith Cook  
Chancellor