Danbury Hospital receives approval to perform open heart surgery and primary and elective angioplasty

Danbury Hospital applied to the Office of Health Care Access (OHCA) and its predecessor, the Commission on Hospitals and Health Care, in 1986 and 1990 for a certificate of need (CON) to allow it to provide open heart surgery and primary and elective angioplasty and was denied each time.

When the Hospital decided to apply again in 2004, it engaged Robinson & Cole’s Health Law Group to establish that residents of western Connecticut needed direct access to open heart surgery and angioplasty. After a lengthy application and adversarial hearing process, which was contested by three Connecticut hospitals that already provided these services, OHCA approved Danbury Hospital’s request for open heart surgery and primary and elective angioplasty on July 23, 2004. The Robinson & Cole Health Law Group delivered results to Danbury Hospital and the residents of western Connecticut by proving to OHCA that western Connecticut needed advanced cardiac care. OHCA found that the hospital satisfied all of the statutory criteria required to establish need for expanded cardiac services in western Connecticut. As a result, residents of western Connecticut will no longer have to travel long distances for life saving cardiac treatment. Prior to the approval of Danbury Hospital’s CON, OHCA’s most recent approval for advanced cardiac care in Connecticut was ten years ago.