| STAIE OE VERONT GR NMOUNIAN CARE BOAFD |  |
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| Herring held before ted poand at the vainitan Atintorym, 2011 | Green Mantain beginning at 1 |

## YEATH_APE ADVCAITS

GHC shouldice


OAIR MUTN: Good aftemoon everyone. welcame to the Green Mantain surgery center meeting. First item an the agencla is the Exeartive Director's report. Susan Barrett.

MS. BARPEIT: Thank you, Mr. Chair. I have some schediling amouncements. First, this Friday, April 19 we will have a meeting here in this additorium at $9 \mathrm{a} . \mathrm{m}$. and we will be potentially voting an hospital budget enforcement hearings. Thark you. I thirk everyone can hear me. I'm pretty loud.

The other schediling uplate is on wechesclay, April 24 we'11 be hearing from springfield Medical Center. We'll be herring on a rate adjustment to their budget as well as their enforcement hearing. We had had springfield schediled for today and die to Representative's passing and a fineral we've reschediled that to April 24, again in this aditorium, starting at 1 p.m., and then we have finalized the date for or traveling board meeting will ocar at the end of this month next month May 29. It will be at Gifford Hospital, and there will be more details an ar web site, and, lastly, if folks have not signed in, I would ask that you sign in at the back table and that is all I have to amonce.

MR. MNT: Representative Jidkling is here. Do you want to recognize him?

MS. BAPREIT: Ch yes. I want to recognize Representative Ben Jidkling who is on the House Health care carmittee. Thark you. Thark you for caning.

GAIR MUNT: with that we have two minutes to approve. The first is wechesciay, April 10 and the second is Friday, April 12. Is there a motion?

MS. USIIFR: So moved.
MR. PEHMM: Second.
OAIR MUN: Been moved and seconded to approve both sets of minutes without any additions, deletions, or corrections. Is there any discussion? Hearing none all those in favor signify by saying aye. (Board menbers respond aye) Any apposed? (No verbal response.)

Thark you. So at this point we would like to tum to the CON hearing on creen Mantain surgery center and I an going to appoint Midnel Barber to be the Hearing officer and Midneel will be rurring the rest of the afternoon.

MR. BAPBR: Thank you. So good

|  | 5 |  | 7 |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| 1 | aftemoon. This is a hearing in the case of in re: | 1 | your right-hand so the cart reporter can swear you |
| 2 | ACID, LC ding business as Green Mountain Surgery | 2 | in. |
| 3 | Center. The dodket number is avo-010-15 cov. As | 3 | (Potential witnesses were swom.) |
| 4 | the chair said my name is Nidæel Barber. I'll be | 4 | MR. BAPBr: Ms. Tyler, tum it over to |
| 5 | serving as the board's desigrated Hearing officer for | 5 | you. |
| 6 | today. This is - this hearing will be conducted | 6 | MS. TMR: Sure. I'm Karen Tyler with |
| 7 | under Title 18 chapter 271 of the vermont statutes | 7 | the firm of durkiel saunders representing ACID, Шع. |
| 8 | and the Board's Certificate of Need regilation GMB | 8 | Thark you very much for the time today. We'11 start |
| 9 | Rule 4. The provisions of the Achrinistrative | 9 | with just an introduction of the folks at the table |
| 10 | Procedres Act do not apply to these proceedings. | 10 | here and then we'11 move directly into the |
| 11 | ACT or ACID, the holder of the CON, is | 11 | presentation regarding condition compliance that they |
| 12 | represented today by attomey Karen Tyler. | 12 | will be presenting. |
| 13 | Representing Vermont Association of Hospitals and | 13 | MS. Corrr: ${ }^{\text {a }}$ Thark you, Karen. I'm Amy |
| 14 | Health Systerns and Northwestem Medical Center who | 14 | Cooper, menager of ACID, UC and the Green Mantain |
| 15 | are interested parties is attomey Am Cramer, and | 15 | surgery center. |
| 16 | representing the office of the Heplth Care Adocate, | 16 | MR. PAONL: I'm Jdm Paani. I'm the |
| 17 | also an interested party, are attorneys Julia shaw | 17 | adrinistrator of the Green Muntain surgery Center. |
| 18 | and Eric shouldice. | 18 | I would like to thark you for the apporturity since |
| 19 | So the agench for this aftermoon's | 19 | this is the first time I've been at the Green |
| 20 | hearing is as follows. First we're gring to hear | 20 | Mountain Care Board. I come from Utica, New York. I |
| 21 | from ACID. Based an ar preherring conference I | 21 | moved here in July of last year to qeerate and help |
| 22 | expect your presentation to be 45 minutes or so. I | 22 | build the Green Mantain Surgery center. This is the |
| 23 | have asked the Board Marbers to hold their questions | 23 | third surgery center that I have had the apporturity |
| 24 | until the end insteed of intermpting it. I thirk | 24 | to work in. The first surgery center brilt from the |
| 25 | that will make things go smoother. Following your | 25 | ground up it was a single specialty pain with six |
|  | 6 |  | 8 |
| 1 | presentation there will be board questions, the | 1 | ORS. The second surgery center was a |
| 2 | apporturity for Health care Adocate to ask some | 2 | gastroenterology with four procedure roans in lower |
| 3 | clarifying questions, and then we're going to hear | 3 | Marhatton. |
| 4 | frum Northwestem Medical center. We'11 have one | 4 | So I'11 tell you a little bit about an |
| 5 | witness again followed by board questions and | 5 | arbulatory surgery center as it's a fairly new |
| 6 | potentially questions from the Health Care Adlocate. | 6 | concept for vermont, but it's a really urique medical |
| 7 | At the end we're gring to have a pablic | 7 | facility. we create a very team structured |
| 8 | comment period. If you would like to make comments | 8 | eviromment. Everyone pitches in and we all wear a |
| 9 | today, there is a sign-p sheet outside the door. I | 9 | lot of hats. The ASC runs extremely efficient. |
| 10 | would ask that you please put your name dow. The | 10 | procedires are schediled and all procedires start on |
| 11 | board will not be making any decisions today. So in | 11 | time. Patient wait times are very minimal. We are |
| 12 | addition to the corments that the board receives | 12 | foased on that patient. There is no greater |
| 13 | orally at the end of the hearing, the board will | 13 | satisfaction for me than seeing a patient smile when |
| 14 | accept public comments for ten days. So through | 14 | they leave ar facility. The Green Mantain Surgery |
| 15 | Manday, Apri1 29. Those corments can be sudnitted | 15 | center will offer great service at an affordable cost |
| 16 | via the board's web site, by telephone, or by U.S. | 16 | to all the citizens of vermont. we do not have any |
| 17 | mail. | 17 | overnight stay for any patient. Or patients have |
| 18 | we have a court reporter here with us | 18 | the right to doose the facility that they will have |
| 19 | today and she's meking a transcript of the | 19 | their procedre performed. The Green Mountain |
| 20 | proceeding, and before we move an and I tum it over | 20 | Surgery Center will offer an altermative to those |
| 21 | to you, Ms. Tyler, I nould like to ask the court | 21 | Vermonters. Thark you. |
| 22 | reporter to swear in all the potential witnesses at | 22 | S. Coprir: Now I wes gring to start at |
| 23 | one time. So if you were listed on the parties' | 23 | the top with condition number one and go through the |
| 24 | withess list as a potential witness and you expect to | 24 | conditions sequentially to danonstrate how we are |
| 25 | testify tocky, if you would please stand up and raise | 25 | complying with those conditions of the CoN. |

1 CRS. The second surgery center was a
your right-hand so the cart reporter can swear you in.
(Potential witnesses were snom.)
MR. BAPBER: Ms. Tyler, tum it over to
MS. TMRR: Sure. I'm Karen Tyler with the firm of Durkiel saunders representing ACID, ШС. Thark you very much for the time toclay. We'11 start with just an introduction of the folks at the table here and then we'11 move directly into the presentation regarding condition compliance that they will be presenting.

MS. COPFR: Thark you, Karen. I'm Amy cooper, manager of ACID, UC and the Green Mountain surgery center.

MR. PAONL: I'm Jotm Paani. I'm the administrator of the Green Mountain Surgery Center. I would like to thank you for the apportunity since this is the first time I've been at the Green Mountain Care Board. I come from Utica, New York. I moved here in July of last year to qperate and help brild the Green Mountain Surgery Center. This is the third surgery center that I have had the apporturity to work in. The first surgery center built from the ground up it was a single specialty pain with six

| 9 |  |  | 11 |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| 1 | Condition runber one is that the | 1 | in response to condition 18 here we will list the |
| 2 | applicant shal1 develop a consumer friendly web site | 2 | types of procedre/surgery that this physician will |
| 3 | which shal1 provide information about each physician | 3 | perform and explain the evidence basis for |
| 4 | plaming to offer surgeries at the Green Mountain | 4 | recommending the procedire and how the procedire |
| 5 | surgery center. So this is the consumer friendly web | 5 | improves health. |
| 6 | site that we have developed. This is arrently on a | 6 | So, for exampe, at the top are the |
| 7 | development sever. It is not live to the public | 7 | procedires cormonly performed by this |
| 8 | yet. Per the CON we will launh or live to the | 8 | gastroenterologist; colonoscopy, diagnostic |
| 9 | public web site two weeks before we become | 9 | colanoscopy, screening colanoscopy, and upper |
| 10 | operational, but we have developed the site on the | 10 | gastrointestinal endoscopies, and then we have same |
| 11 | development server so that is what I plan to show you | 11 | text regarding how colorectal screerings improve |
| 12 | today. | 12 | health by detecting cancers in peaple with no prior |
| 13 | is the home page here. The mesu | 13 | history of cancer. The drject of these procedires is |
| 14 | includes physicians, tour, a section for patients | 14 | to redice colorectal cancer. Colonoscopies are an |
| 15 | where we have frequently asked questions, careers, | 15 | effective wey to screen for colon cancer because they |
| 16 | and contact information at the right. On the bottom | 16 | have high sensitivity for early detection, require |
| 17 | of the web site we have a lirk to ar pricing and | 17 | anly a single session diagnosis and treatment, and |
| 18 | quality measures, a link to ar policies, and a link | 18 | have long intervals between examinations in patients |
| 19 | here that camects to the Medicare's AsC quality | 19 | who are over the age of 50 . |
| 20 | reporting program page where Medicare shows quality | 20 | For patients with symptoms of positive |
| 21 | results for ASCS nationally across the country. The | 21 | screaring tests, diagnostic colonoscopies is |
| 22 | Green Mountain Surgery center would be included there | 22 | generally the best choice for examination, and then |
| 23 | and patients can see the comparative quality results | 23 | endoscopy below is primarily used as a diagnostic |
| 24 | compared to other anbulatory surgery centers across | 24 | tool to permit visual inspection of the esphagus, |
| 25 | the country. | 25 | stomech, and small intestine which can be viened by a |
|  |  |  |  |
| 1 | To start with condition | 1 | continuous flexible tube inserted through the mouth |
| 2 | pictures here now. That's Dr. Lab who is here with | 2 | uper endoscopy also includes certain therapatic |
| 3 | us today. I also have - we don't have pictures of | 3 | procedires such as the renoval of polyps which can be |
| 4 | all the physicians yet or the physicians filly | 4 | cancerous. We have the same information there for |
| 5 | loaded. I also have Dr. Young who you will be | 5 | Dr. Lab and Dr. Young with descriptions of their |
| 6 | hearing from today. All of the physician profiles | 6 | procedres and how they improve health. |
| 7 | will follow the exact same format so I will go | 7 | the next condition is that we shal1 |
| 8 | through and show you one of those profiles now. This | 8 | develop and implement a policy wrich we will post to |
| 9 | is an example doctor in the field of | 9 | the web site requiring each physician use a patient |
| 10 | gastroenterology. Up here is the introductory bit | 10 | decision aid such as shared decision meking that |
| 11 | showing where this doctor practices, his years of | 11 | fuilly informs the patient to the benefits and risks |
| 12 | experience, and whether the physician is ane of the | 12 | of all care altematives, incorporates the best |
| 13 | owners of the Green Mountain Surgery Center which is | 13 | available scientific evidence, tokes into account the |
| 14 | one of the conditions as part of condition one. | 14 | patient's values, goals, and preferences, and advises |
| 15 | Condition one also requires that the | 15 | the patients of the pros and cons, incluxing the |
| 16 | credantials of the physician be listed so we've done | 16 | comparative costs, of having the procedire. The |
| 17 | that here undemeath. Condition one also requires | 17 | policy shall incluck a provision requiring |
| 18 | that the physician's contact information for patients | 18 | certification by the provider of his or her |
| 19 | 24/7 be available on the web site. That's down here | 19 | compliance with such a policy. |
| 20 | at the bottom. These here are tobs that you would | 20 | This policy was stunitted initially last |
| 21 | tob through, but the contact information always | 21 | year and is here on ar web site shared decision |
| 22 | remains down at the bottom. | 22 | making policy. I should also note that ar web site |
| 23 | The hospital for this physician there is | 23 | that's live right now and open to the pablic, which |
| 24 | listed University of Vermont Medical center and then | 24 | is mostly a splash pege, but also has all of our |
| 25 | common procedres that this physician does. This is | $25$ | policies already up there. So this is an the dead |


|  | 13 |
| :---: | :---: |
| 1 | site but also on the live site, and there is our |
| 2 | shared decision making policy there. This button |
| 3 | opens into a PDF of the policy. |
| 4 | The certification page that eadh |
| 5 | physician signs as part of the policy whid was |
| 6 | subnitted when we sumnitted these policies last year |
| 7 | to the board is signed and kept on file at the |
| 8 | surgery center in each physician's credentialing |
| 9 | file. |
| 10 | The next condition is condition 3. We |
| 11 | shall develop and implement a policy which we shall |
| 12 | post to the consumer web site certifying that each |
| 13 | physician will accept patients without regard to |
| 14 | payer type, insurance status, or their ability to pay |
| 15 | for services. The physician shall further certify |
| 16 | that he shall not consider the sarce of payment or a |
| 17 | patient's ability to pay when determining whether to |
| 18 | perform patient surgery at the ASC. We have our |
| 19 | payment status non-discrimination policy listed right |
| 20 | here. This was also subnitted in full to the board |
| 21 | last year, and this policy here also contains a |
| 22 | certification page after the policy which each |
| 23 | physician signs and we keep on file in their |
| 24 | credentialing file at the surgery center. |
| 25 | The next condition is candition 4, the |

1 site but also an the live site, and there is ar shared decision making policy there. This button opens into a PDF of the policy. The certification page that each physician signs as part of the policy wrich was to the board is signed and kept on file at the surgery center in eah physician's credentialing file.

The next condition is condition 3. We shal1 develop and implement a policy wrich we shal1 post to the consumer wab site certifying that each physician will accept patients without regard to payer type, insurance status, or their ability to pay for services. The physician shall further certify that he shall not consider the sarce of payment or a patient's ability to pay when determining whether to perform patient surgery at the ASC. We have our payment status non-discrimination policy listed right here. This was also subnitted in full to the board last year, and this policy here also contains a certification page after the policy wrich each physician signs and we keep on file in their credentialing file at the surgery center.

1 applicant shall enter into a transfer agreement with
2 at least one local hospital or dbtain a binding 3 menorandm of agreement from such hospital confirming 4 that it will enter into a transfer agreament ance the

The next condition is condition 4, the
desires to transfer patients requiring emergency services to UMMC and UMMC desires to accept such patients; and, whereas, the patients also desire to facilitate the continuity of care and to specify the rights and duties of each party as well as the procedire for ensuring appropriate timely transfer of patients and records between the parties, now, therefore, for mutual consideration sufficiency of which is hereby adnowledged, the parties agree as follows, and then the doament reads with explanations of how we will effectively transfer patients and medical information from the Green Mountain Surgery center to the UM Medical center.

The next condition is condition 5, the applicant shall enter into a transfer agreement with BLS sevice for emergency patient transportation. We have entered into an agreenent with the colchester Rescue squad. That agreenent was entered into on March 7 and the copy of that agrement was also subnitted to the board.

The next condition is that the applicant shall enter into a participation agreament with one or more risk bearing Acos to receive fixed payment reinbursement in lieu of fee for service payments for patients attributed to the ACO or dbtain a binding

1 status with Medicare which means Medicare will accept their recommendation an certification. one of those national bodies is the joint cormission. We have as a later condition of ar con that we have to dbtain Joint Commission certification. So we can accomplish both goals by getting, before we become qperational, accreditation from the Joint Commission which also brings us dan status for Medicare. So that is the route that we are pursuing to meet the condition of dotaining CMS approval before we open.

Condition 8 is that the applicant shal1 establish and post to the ASC's wab site the cormercial self pay and Medicare prices for the 25 most frequently performed procedres and surgeries or the commercial self pay and Mecticare prices that comprise at least 75 percent of the AsC's overall volume. The applicant shall regilarly update and post this information no less than quarterly whether or not the prices or procedres have danged. So where we have allowed for that on our web site is at the pricing and quality measure page here. we have the Medicare prices and payment rates listed first. we also have provided a link here in the explanation to the Medicare procedre price look-up tool in the event that a patient is coning in for a procedre

1 that is not on ar list of the 25 most common and 2 have directed them they can go to that web site to 3 type in that procedure and get an estinate of the $4 \quad \operatorname{cost}$ in the ASC. we do have a PDF here which lists 5 what we anticipate will be or 25 most common procedires and then the Green Mountain Surgery Center Medicare payment from Medicare's pablished outpatient ASC procedre fee schedile that they published in January of 2019.
we plan to use the same format for the cormercial self pay stancard darges. It would have again the same 25 most common procedres and a PDF of similar format that would qpen. We do not have information on this finalized yet so this does not have prices in it yet, but that's what we are working towards over the next caple of months.
we also have provided on the left-hand
side links to the insurance carrier web sites that we contract with so that patients can use the menber sites on the insurance carriers to get an estinate as well from their insurers of what the at-of-pocket cost will be for their procedres.

Condition 9 is that we shal1 make the ASC's consumer web site available to the pablic no later than two weeks prior to commencing qperations.
we are on track and plan to do that and would plan to notify the board when our web site is launded to the pablic.

Nuber 10 - candition runber 10 is the applicant shall not offer services, procedres, or surgeries without first dannstrating to the board that such services, procedres, or surgeries are evidence based and fall within the scope of those approved in the certificate of Need. I sumnitted on March 18 sturies showing the evidance basis of procedires to be performed across ar initial plan specialty list. The study suanitted also showed the efficacy and safety of performing these procedures in an artpatient anbulatory surgery center enviroment.

The scope within the context of this condition seans to mean specifically those procedres that can be performed safely and reliably in an ambulatory surgery center. This way of defining the scope was artiallated in the statement of decision of our CON findings of fact number 14 which says that prsuant to federal law physicians using the facility may only perform surgeries and procedres that are not expected to case a significant safety risk to a patient when performed in an ASC and for which the standard medical practice dictates that the patient
would not typically be expected to require active medical monitoring and care after midright following procedre.
condition 11 is that the applicant shal1 require that each physician that performs procedres or surgeries at the ASC have adnitting privileges at one or more local hospitals. This requirement is stipulated in ar medical staff bylaws in section 4 where we say under 4.2, merbership qualifications, that marbership on the medical staff of the center shall be a privilege extended only to those professianally competent practitioners within the center's primary service area who maintain active privileges at a local hospital with credit approved by the governing board if they perform procedires surgeries at the center.
we also have in the credentialing file for each physician at the center a capy of evidence of their adnitting privileges at local hospitals, capy of the bylaws. The pertinent section was subnitted to the board on March 18. Condition 12 is that the applicant must successfuilly negotiate with Blue cross/Blue srield of vermont to accept reinbursenent that is below the comunity fee schedile rate for insurers that do not

| 1 | use the commuity hospital fee schedile. The |
| :---: | :---: |
| 2 | applicant shall negotiate reimbursements that it can |
| 3 | dennostrate are below reintursements for the same |
| 4 | procedires and surgeries when performed in a hospital |
| 5 | setting. I explained ar plan to comply with this |
| 6 | condition in a letter I wrote to the board that was |
| 7 | sudnitted on March 26. We are plarning, as we |
| 8 | negotiate with insurers over the next caple of |
| 9 | months, to ask then after we've settled on |
| 10 | reimbursement rates to provide us with a letter that |
| 11 | confirms that the reinbursenent rates provided to us |
| 12 | are below the average reinbursement rates paid to |
| 13 | local hospitals for the same procedire. we would |
| 14 | plan to stbrit those letters to the board as we |
| 15 | complete ar contracting with the major commercial |
| 16 | insurers including Blue cross and Blue shield of |
| 17 | vermont. |
| 18 | Condition 13 is that the price of a procedre |
| 19 | or surgery that is billed to patients that self pay |
| 20 | may not exceed the lowest price billed to patients |
| 21 | covered by commercial insurance. This is covered |
| 22 | under or self pay policy, policy number 3.14, which |
| 23 | we subnitted to the board at the end of January. A |
| 24 | icy states that a patient can be considered self |
| 25 | pay if they are having a medically necessary |

procedre and maintain no health benefits to the best of the center's knowledge. Health benefits camot be verified if a patient maintains health benefits with an insurer with wrich the facility is not contracted. The following discount policy applies and that first bullet under the procedre is that the self pay rate billed to patients for any code or service that is medically necessary will be equal to the lowest amont that the center gets paid by contracted cormercial insurers for the same procedres.

MR. BAPBRR: Miss Cooper, I'm a little cognizant of time here. If it's a policy you're going over, and I don't meen to break your - but if it's a policy, the board has it and has read it and I don't thirk you need to summarize it.

MS. COPPR: dkay. Thark you. The next three conditions relate to policies so I was going to ask Jom to give a brief overview of what those policies are without reading then please, Jotn.

MR. PAONL: So the first one is the benefits verification policy and as part of ar work flow that we woild verify insurance benefits for all patients conning to the surgery center. Every patient gets a phone call prior to the procedire and a full explanation to them is given to what their
$\omega$-insurance is, their co-payment, or any deductible. They are also offered to have that information sent to them either via post mail in writing or via e-mail.

The second ane is ar free or discanted care policy and we looked at ar local hospitals to their policy to offer similar discounted care and so we used a simple form. It's very simple, and the patients can fill it out and be reviened for free or discount care.

I'm trying to keep this short not to go
policies. ar after hars care policy
given written instructions upan
m the facility on the discharge sumary into the deep policies. ar after hours care policy patients are given written instructions upon discharge from the facility on the discharge summary with contact information for the physician to give them 24 hour access to that physician and to an active teleqhone nuber to reach that physician. MS. Copre: Thark you. Condition 17 is that the applicant shall begin the process for accreditation by the Joint comission, and like I said we've already started that process in conjunction with OSS certification and plan to eam accreditation from the Joint commission before we become operational.

Condition 18 is that the applicant shal1
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| 1 | and the reason that we've asked to modify it is that |
| 2 | the providers consider all of the information that's |
| 3 | requested private information. It's information that |
| 4 | they keep confidential, that they consider sensitive |
| 5 | and competitively sensitive. So, for example, it's |
| 6 | not information that would typically be available to |
| 7 | a prospective employer of a physician unless the |
| 8 | employer asked for it specifically and the provider |
| 9 | chose to disclose it. So, you know, for these |
| 10 | reasons as we've explained in the letter that we |
| 11 | subnitted in early January we believe this |
| 12 | information qualifies for - to be witheld from |
| 13 | public inspection under the Public Records Act, and |
| 14 | we've cited the appropriate provisions which would be |
| 15 | Section 317 O and 9 . |
| 16 | So what the surgery center is asking for |
| 17 | instead is to disclose all of the information that |
| 18 | the board has requested but to disclose it an an |
| 19 | aggregated basis by specialty rather than, you know, |
| 20 | by individal provider. The board, of course, is |
| 21 | charged with regilatory oversight of the surgery |
| 22 | center as an entity and not with the conduct of each |
| 23 | individal physician. So we believe that providing |
| 24 | the information on the aggregated basis as we've |
| 25 | requested will serve the purpose of the condition, |

give the board the information that it needs to oversee qperations of the surgery center while not requiring the disclosure of again, you know, persomal private, confidantial, and competitively sensitive information an the public web site on the part of eah individual provider.

MS. CCOPR: The next part of ar presertation would respond to the request in the board's hearing letter to provide information on the need for the qhthalmology and plastic surgery specialties, but if this is a better point to pase before getting into that section for questions, I'm happy to do that or we can move right along into that.

MR. BAPBR: I thirk getting through the rest of the testimony and questions on everything that the board has heard will be the best carse.

MS. COPPR: creat. So there was a specific request for information in the prehearing letter regarding cost savings and weit times for ophthalmology. We sudnitted a letter from Dr. Doyle's office, who is an eye surgean in Berlin, who experiences wait times for his patients of between two and five months. We also strnitted national data from an ASC bendmarking report showing that 83
percent of patients needing cataract surgeries access surgeries witthin for weeks. We also sumnitted, and which I have here, information about the cost savings of qhithalmology services. The information we included comes from Medicare's procedure price look up and I'm just going to see how I con enlarge this view. Maybe it's big enough. I'm not sure. In any case the tool shows on the left if you were to type in at the top a procedire cock - thark you - the procedre code here is 68700 , plastic repair of tear, Medicare wil1 provide you with the rate paid on average nationally to an anbulatory surgical center and the rate paid on nationally - on average to hospital alpatient departments. This tool is also very useful and consumer patient friendly in that it shows on the blue bars what the patient responsibility is per Medicare plan design, and the total cost there is an the bottom. The average total cost of this procedire
in an ASC is 805 dollars. The average total cost in the botton. The average total cost of this procedire
in an ASC is 805 dollars. The average total cost in a hospital is 1812 dollars.
procedure. All procedres included in this presentation are for qhthalmology. I wan't go through every one. I thirk we included about 15

## And this is another qhthalmology

qhthalmology procedres that we would plan to do. Every ane, of carse, has a much lower total cost and patient responsibility in the arbulatory surgery center versus the hospital outpatient department.
ckay, and at this point I would tum it over to the witnesses that I have asked to testify to further explain the need for qhthalmology and plastic surgery services at the Green Mountain Surgey Center.

DR. WelsscaD: Hello. Thark you for the apporturity to adtress you. My name is David weissgold. I'm a vitreoretinal surgeen. I've practiced surgery in the Burlington, Vermont area since 1997 and as a part of Retina Center of vermont since 2005. I arrently perform retina surgery at University of Vermont Medical center, Fletcher Allen Heplth Care before that. UM has always been the sole hospital in the state eqripped to accommodate retina services.

Retina center of vermont has tried for several years to gain access to an anbulatory surgical setting for its surgical patients. In 2015 my partner, Dr. Midhelle Young, who is here and from whan you will hear, and I begen conversations with the owners of the only existing anbulatory surgical

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| 1 | center in Vermont. At the time we explained that |
| 2 | retinal surgeries are routinely performed in both |
| 3 | single specialty and multi-specialty anbulatory |
| 4 | surgical centers throughout the country and that we |
| 5 | would like to offer ar patients the converience and |
| 6 | affordability of having their procedures performed in |
| 7 | a small outpatient surgical setting rather than |
| 8 | exclusively at the academic medical center. While |
| 9 | conversations were cordial and exploratory we were |
| 10 | ultimately told that staffing constraints and |
| 11 | schediling complications would prohibit us fram |
| 12 | bringing ar services to the existing anbulatory |
| 13 | surgical center. |
| 14 | Discouraged but still determined we then |
| 15 | approaded smaller regional hospitals and began to |
| 16 | explore with them the possibility of treating our |
| 17 | patients there instead. These conversations |
| 18 | conducted over the phone, via e-mail, and sametimes |
| 19 | in person ultimately did not bear fruit either as the |
| 20 | hospitals shied away from further conversations after |
| 21 | citing a need to spend more time investigating how |
| 22 | hosting retinal surgeries woild fit in with |
| 23 | participation in new payment models. |
| 24 | Then in 2017 we went back to the only |
| 25 | existing anbulatory surgical center in the state and |

practice and our patients.
UMMC is not fully meeting the needs of my practice at this time. UMMC recently amounced a problematic policy dhange with respect to how operating room time is schediled. We were informed recently that starting an Apri1 29 of this year, this month, most surgeons, vitreoretinal services
included, will be required to release to other surgeons qperating room block time that is not fully schediled with cases seven days in advance of the proposed date of surgery. This new hospital-wide rude does not work for Retina Center of Vermont and its patients as many vitreoretinal surgeries are urgently needed ones that carnot be schediled more than a week in advance. Last year approximately 50 percent of our procedires were schediled fever than seven days in advance.

While I will be able to schedile separate operating roam time outside of my normal block time for urgent and emergent procedires under the new policy, that would come at great expense to my other patients who have appointments for office based care whose appointments I would then have to cancel and reschedile in order to go to the hospital to meet UMMC's schediling denands for my operating
room bound surgical patients. I see office based patients dring all times outside of my qerating room block time every work week, and very many of those patients' needs are no less pressing nor vision threatering than are those of the operating room bound patients. One can pemmentily lose vision just as quidkly from age related meailar degeneration that needs office bosed care, for example, medication injection into the eye, as from a retinal detadment that needs aperating room based surgery. I care for far, far more urgently in need office based patients than I db urgently in need aperating room based patients every single week.

UMMC has thrown many OR schediling barriers such as this one in front of us over the years. That is a major reason why we've been searching so urgently for a different aption for ar patients. Mbst of the UMMC OR policy dhanges we have simply swallowed as protest is rarely successful and we have managed to adjust. This one, which has been repeatedly threatened and which I have every reason to believe will continue to be repeatedly threatened even if it is put aside in 2019 which we have been told will not happen, is a hazarduus step too far and is completely out of step with the

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| 1 | reality of how retina practices across - access | 1 | afforded to those Vermonters who might benefit from |
| 2 | operating roans adross the country. The one size | 2 | it. In addition, it makes no patient care related |
| 3 | fits all approach adopted by UMMC, doviously a large | 3 | sense whatsoever to prohibit cataract extractions by |
| 4 | institution with many stakeholders to manage at the | 4 | vitreoretinal surgeons in instances wherein the need |
| 5 | same time, does not meet the needs of my patients and | 5 | for those extractions anly becomes evidant right in |
| 6 | my practice. This is why I'm interested in | 6 | the middle of a vitreoretinal surgical procedure |
| 7 | performing vitreoretinal surgeries in the Green | 7 | and/or in instances where in similtaneous interodilar |
| 8 | Mountain Surgery Center. It is commorplace for | 8 | lens prosthesis placement by second lens dedicated |
| 9 | vitreoretinal procedures to be performed in | 9 | surgeons is not needed and/or is contraindicated |
| 10 | anbulatory surgery centers in other parts of the | 10 | medically. |
| 11 | country for reasans of cost savings, qulity, | 11 | In conclusion, one size fits all does |
| 12 | efficiency, and patient preerernce for the ASC | 12 | not work for vitreoretinal surgical sevices for an |
| 13 | envirorment. | 13 | entire state. Vermont patients deserve qptions and |
| 14 | Based an disassions I have had with | 14 | cost competition. Having gone to great lengths to |
| 15 | Green Mountain Surgery Center management over the | 15 | explore all of the possible qptions, I have no dubt |
| 16 | past few months I expect that the Green Mountain | 16 | that the Green Mantain Surgery center is the best |
| 17 | Surgery Center will be much better able to | 17 | suited to meet my patients and my practice's needs. |
| 18 | accommodate my schediling needs than UMMC, and I | 18 | Thark you. |
| 19 | understand that Green Mountain Surgery Center will be | 19 | DR. YONG: My name is Midhelle Young |
| 20 | able to provide all equipment and staffing that I | 20 | and I am a vitreoretinal surgeon. I've been |
| 21 | need to care for nearly all of my operating roam | 21 | practicing quthalmology in Vermont since 2004 first |
| 22 | bound patients. Green Mountain Surgery Center's | 22 | at the UMM Medical Center and at Retina Center of |
| 23 | small size will enable nimbleness that will be a huge | 23 | Vermont since 2009. I perform surgeries at the UM |
| 24 | improvement over Retina Center of Vermont's arrent | 24 | Medical Center which is arrently the only facility |
| 25 | experience. | 25 | in Vermont with the necessary equipment and staff |
|  |  |  |  |
|  | 34 |  | 36 |
| 1 | I've been asked to address as part of | 1 | trained to handle vitreoretinal surgeries. |
| 2 | this testimony whether it would be feasible for the | 2 | Like my partner Dr. Weissgold I am |
| 3 | Green Mountain Surgery Center to offer vitreoretinal | 3 | concemed about UMMC's recent policy dange |
| 4 | but not cataract surgeries. It would not make sense | 4 | regarding OR block schediling which requires surgeons |
| 5 | from a care centric standpoint to authorize the Green | 5 | to release unschediled blodk time seven days in |
| 6 | Mountain Surgery Center to offer anly same of the | 6 | advance. Most vitreoretinal surgeries need to be |
| 7 | surgical eye services that are appropriately | 7 | schediled within one to seven days, and as a result |
| 8 | performed in an arbulatory surgical center. Same | 8 | I'm now being offered OR time for emergent and urgent |
| 9 | patients needing vitreoretinal surgeries also need | 9 | procedures during weekdays when I have fully blocked |
| 10 | cataract surgeries. It is not rare for a patient | 10 | clinics and after I have released my block time which |
| 11 | undergoing vitreoretinal surgical repair of a complex | 11 | means I'11 be forced into a situation that will |
| 12 | retinal detadment, for example, to also need a | 12 | necessitate reschediling my clinic patients same with |
| 13 | cataract removed to enable the highest quality, | 13 | potential blinding diseases and whose care is just as |
| 14 | safest vitreoretinal repair. Sametimes the needs for | 14 | urgent as the patient needing surgery in the |
| 15 | those patients' cataract extractions is known in | 15 | operating roam. |
| 16 | advance. For a variety of reasons it has been nearly | 16 | I would like to have the qption to |
| 17 | impossible to schedile cataract surgeons to perform | 17 | perform vitreoretinal surgeries in the Green Mountain |
| 18 | those cataract extractions simultaneous with | 18 | Surgery Center. In states where ASCS are present |
| 19 | vitreoretinal surgical repairs at UMMC. | 19 | vitreoretinal procedures are often performed there at |
| 20 | I understand Green Mountain Surgery | 20 | lower cost for the patient. ASCs can provide |
| 21 | Center has already plarned to meet this need with | 21 | equivalent or higher quality and greater efficiency |
| 22 | same session same day plamed cataract extractions by | 22 | than regional medical centers. I expect that the |
| 23 | cataract surgeans and vitreoretinal procedures by | 23 | Green Mountain Surgery Center will provide a high |
| 24 | vitreoretinal surgeons. This offering is near | 24 | quality facility that meets my schediling needs which |
| 25 | universal in all other states but has yet to be | 25 | is ultimately for the well being of my patients. |


| 37 |  | 39 |  |
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| 1 | I have been asked to consider whether it | 1 | than the reconmended time to have the surgery. |
| 2 | would be possible for me to perform vitreoretinal | 2 | order to continue to serve my |
| 3 | procedires at the Green Mantain Surgery Center but | 3 | patients I have supplemented the lack of surgery days |
| 4 | perform no cataract surgery at the same center. My | 4 | at UMMC by dbtaining qperating privileges at other |
| 5 | answer is this is just not possible. I do not | 5 | ler regional hospitals in St. Albans and |
| 6 | perform routine cataract surgery, but I do perform | 6 | Middlebury. Although this is a benefit for patients |
| 7 | cataract surgeries in conjunction with complicated | 7 | needing plastic surgery in Pranklin or Addisan |
| 8 | vitreoretinal procedures as I need to. I also | 8 | county, most of my patients live in drittenden county |
| 9 | perform cataract surgery in patients in wham previous | 9 | and they have additional driving time in order to |
| 10 | cataract surgeries have become complicated by loss of | 10 | have their surgery because of this. This is |
| 11 | lens material into the posterior segment. Dring any | 11 | unfortunate that this means more time off work for |
| 12 | vitreoretinal surgery it's possible that I will need | 12 | their families and caregivers. |
| 13 | to perform cataract surgery as part of the procedure | 13 | The high cost of surgery at the acadanic |
| 14 | and it's not always possible to know in advance | 14 | medical center in Burlington is also a barrier to |
| 15 | Whether or not a patient wil1 need a lens procedire | 15 | care for me and my patients. One of my patients |
| 16 | done in addition to their schediled vitreoretinal | 16 | desired to have surgery that was not covered by his |
| 17 | surgery. | 17 | insurance and was quted an almost - almost \$20,000 |
| 18 | I've tried for years alang with Dr. | 18 | institutional or hospital fee for his surgery at |
| 19 | Weissgold to find an operating enviroment that will | 19 | UMMC. This surgery is the same day outpatient |
| 20 | better meet the needs of my practice and my patients. | 20 | surgery that takes less than a few hours. If that |
| 21 | There is no question in my mind that having access to | 21 | were his only option, the patient would need to |
| 22 | an ASC envirament at the Green Mountain Surgery | 22 | forego having the surgery altogether. However, thark |
| 23 | Center will improve the efficiency and effectiveness | 23 | goohess for him he is now schediled to have his |
| 24 | of both my clinical and my surgical practices for the | 24 | surgery at the Green Mantain Surgery Center for an |
| 25 | benefit of my patients. Thark you. | 25 | institutional fee less than a tenth of that figure |
|  |  |  |  |
|  | 38 |  | 40 |
| 1 | DR. LAUB: Thank you for the opportunity | 1 | quoted by UMMC. |
| 2 | to make same corments here today. My name is Donald | 2 | In conclusion, I would like to say, I |
| 3 | Lab. I've been a practicing plastic surgeon in | 3 | can't emphasize this enough, there's a great benefit |
| 4 | Vermont since I was hired by the old Fletcher Al7en | 4 | for the people of vermont that they now have the |
| 5 | in August of 1997. I'm arrently in private practice | 5 | qption for timely and affordable surgical care in the |
| 6 | at Four Seasans Dematology in coldhester. Since I | 6 | form of the anbulatory surgery center like the Green |
| 7 | started with Fletcher Allen in 1997 I have had a busy | 7 | Mountain Surgery Center. Thark you. |
| 8 | reconstructive surgery practice including working | 8 | MR. BARBER: Thark you. Is that the |
| 9 | with the orthopedic department at UMMC and serving | 9 | canclusion of your presentation? |
| 10 | as the medical director of the draniofacial center | 10 | MS. TMRR: So that concludes the |
| 11 | providing a wide variety of other necessary medical | 11 | presentation. Perhaps it would make sense for the |
| 12 | treatment for Vermont residents. | 12 | witnesses who are already seated to take any |
| 13 | I separated from UMMC in October of | 13 | questions from the boand and then to bring Ms. Cooper |
| 14 | 2017 after 20 years there. At that time I thought | 14 | and Mr. Paoni back. |
| 15 | about leaving the state entirely, but decided to stay | 15 | MR. BAPBER: Yeah that makes sense. |
| 16 | partly because of the possibility of operating at the | 16 | dkay. So I guess we'11 open it up to the board |
| 17 | Green Mountain Surgery Center. When I worked at | 17 | menbers for questions for these witnesses. |
| 18 | UMMC I qperated five days a month consistently. | 18 | MS. UNG: Shall I go first? |
| 19 | After I separated from UMMC I was given less than | 19 | MR. BARBER: Sure. |
| 20 | one full day of schediled operating room time per | 20 | MS. UNE: Thank you for coming. I |
| 21 | month after over five months of negotiation. | 21 | know you all have very busy schediles and we |
| 22 | Needless to say the severely reduced operating roam | 22 | appreciate you taking the time to come speak with us |
| 23 | time has led to many of my patients to have delays of | 23 | today about this application CON. SO I just went to |
| 24 | months before having surgery. For example, one baby | 24 | confirm for the two of you who do the qhithalmology |
| 25 | with a cleft palate had to wait three months later | 25 | surgery that you initially approached the applicant |



| 45 |  | 47 |  |
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| 1 | equivalent reintursement paid to hospitals for | 1 | meking sure that stays true, and you said the answer |
| 2 | providing the same services. Can you tell me how | 2 | to that is yes. |
| 3 | that actually satisfies the condition 12 ? | 3 | So there's a difference between ensuring |
| 4 | MS. Coapr: Sure. I thirk I tried to | 4 | that your prices are below the average and ensuring |
| 5 | also in my letter explain that commercial payments, | 5 | that your prices are below the minrimu. Let me just |
| 6 | facility payments to hospitals for outpatient | 6 | firish, and so - and in particular if you look at |
| 7 | surgeries vary anong different hospitals. There is | 7 | the average reimbursement, if the average were the |
| 8 | no uniform comunity fee schedile for facility | 8 | same as the median, then 50 percent of the hospitals |
| 9 | payments to hospitals for outpatient surgery in the | 9 | nould be chepper than the anbulatory surgical center |
| 10 | commercial market like there is in the Medicare | 10 | if you're pitching at the average, and so - and |
| 11 | market. That makes it impossible for us as the Green | 11 | frakly the average is going to be higher then the |
| 12 | Mantain Surgery center to know what the hospital | 12 | median because you're gring to have an outlier with |
| 13 | outpatient payment is from a different - from a | 13 | the acadenic medical center pilling up the average. |
| 14 | commercial insurer for a partiailar surgery. | 14 | So the median is actually going to be lower then the |
| 15 | I submitted a list of our initial | 15 | average here. |
| 16 | plamed procedires by GTT code which had between | 16 | So my concem is that in your testimony |
| 17 | three or four huncred codes on it. I dn't know what | 17 | when you first put forth the idka of a low cost |
| 18 | hospitals receive from commercial insurers in | 18 | altermative to vermonters in the ambulatory surgical |
| 19 | equivalent facility payments for those three hundred | 19 | center, you know, you adocated this was going to be |
| 20 | codes. It's very hard information to get. I don't | 20 | a lower cost than all hospitals, in fact there were |
| 21 | think it's even possible to get. So I need to | 21 | numbers aut there that the prices would be 50 percent |
| 22 | negotiate with cormercial insurers and say here's | 22 | less, there was lots of testimony that the prices |
| 23 | what I thirk my costs are for providing this, here's | 23 | nould be about 50 percent less, the rates would be 50 |
| 24 | what I would like in reinbursenest, and they need to | 24 | percent less than hospitals, and even in your |
| 25 | come back to me and say we thirk that one is too | 25 | response to some of the board's questions January of |
|  |  |  |  |
|  | 46 |  | 48 |
| 1 | high, this one is fine, ckay, and that's how we'11 | 1 | 2019, so just this past January you confirmed, this |
| 2 | have an agreement. | 2 | is a quote, 'he confirm that surgeries and procedres |
| 3 | I did attenpt to ask Blue Cross Blue | 3 | offered at the Green Mountain Surgery center will be |
| 4 | Shield for information about their payments to | 4 | offered at lower cost then the same surgeries and |
| 5 | hospitals for the eqrivalent autpatient surgeries and | 5 | procedires in hospital autpatient settings, including |
| 6 | they declined to provide me with any of that | 6 | surgeries and procedres offered in specialties of |
| 7 | information. So the only way that I can thirk to | 7 | plastic surgery and qhthalmology." So that's |
| 8 | adrieve this, meeting this condition while also | 8 | suggesting it's lower than the minrimu. It's chesper |
| 9 | dealing with the realities of the cormercial | 9 | than the hospitals. It's not cheaper than the |
| 10 | insurance contracting market in the state, is to | 10 | average. |
| 11 | agree to prices for payment with the cormercial | 11 | MS. COFPR: So understanding again that |
| 12 | insurers and then have them attest to me, because | 12 | the payments paid by cormercial insurers to hospital |
| 13 | they won't share their payment rates to hospitals | 13 | autpatient departments for individual procedires are |
| 14 | What they are, that what they are paying us is lower | 14 | extremely varied and different from each other on the |
| 15 | then what they are paying hospitals. | 15 | order of thousands of dollars scmetimes, had the |
| 16 | MS. HINES: dkay, but let me clarify. | 16 | question been asked would you state as a policy that |
| 17 | There's a difference between lower then what they are | 17 | you will be lower than the minimm price paid to any |
| 18 | paying hospitals and lower than the average | 18 | hospital, I may not have arswered in the affirmative. |
| 19 | reintursenent. So let me revind you of -I asked | 19 | The question was asked will you be lower than the |
| 20 | you at the first herring the testimmen - I asked you | 20 | hospitals undefined whether that's the minimum price, |
| 21 | a question would you be willing to grarantee as a | 21 | the median price, or the average price, and I said |
| 22 | center policy to ensure that your prices will always | 22 | yes I can confirm I'11 be lower then the hospitals, |
| 23 | be lower than hospitals and put that policy on your | 23 | and then I'm defining that now more specifically as |
| 24 | web site and in your negotiations with commercial | 24 | the average of the hospital prices. It was never |
| 25 | payers effectively state that that's your policy and | 25 | specifically defined prior to that. |


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| 1 | There also is no dabt that the | 1 | reintursed prices for the antuilatory surgical center |
| 2 | hospitals see us as a major threat and are - have | 2 | are always lower than the other hospital prices in |
| 3 | been opposed to ar opering this whole time, and | 3 | the state? |
| 4 | could, becase we offer a very linited set of | 4 | MS. CCOPR: So what I have d |
| 5 | procedres, artificially lower their prices on | 5 | terms of looking at price comparisons we often quote |
| 6 | certain procedires that we offer and then we woild | 6 | Medicare and Medicare prices to payment rates to |
| 7 | have to match that minimm price had we agreed to | 7 | anbulatory surgery centers are 44 percent lower than |
| 8 | contract at lower then the minimum hospital price, | 8 | payment rates to hospitals on average, but if you |
| 9 | and that would be a threat to the existence of ar | 9 | look at a whole list of 350 CT codes and you compare |
| 10 | business if our competitors, because they offer a | 10 | an anbulatory surgery center rate to a hospital rate, |
| 11 | much wider array of services that they get other | 11 | there are same payments in there where the hospital |
| 12 | reintursements for and wouldh't threaten or | 12 | gets paid huncreds of dollars for a code that an |
| 13 | business, to have artificially lowered their prices | 13 | ambulatory surgery center gets paid \$20 for, and so |
| 14 | on certain procedres that we db, that is a scerrario | 14 | that level of variation exists and may exist for all |
| 15 | that I could quickly see playing itself out had we | 15 | I know in the commercial market. There may be a |
| 16 | agreed to have prices that are only always below the | 16 | hospital for all I know, where anyone knows, that is |
| 17 | mirrimm price of any hospital. | 17 | taking some ridicilusly low payment on a procedre |
| 18 | MS. HOMES: Well 1 just went to remind | 18 | that we would do and that I could not accept and |
| 19 | you, you said the answer to the question was yes your | 19 | still have a business. So I can't make a promise |
| 20 | prices will always be lower than hospitals. That was | 20 | that in the commercial market without knowing what |
| 21 | the question I asked you and you've answered yes, and | 21 | all the prices are that we would be below any minimum |
| 22 | so I'm just going to remind you of that. So it is | 22 | price that an insurer - a cormercial insurer |
| 23 | possible in your arrent negotiations that there | 23 | itracted for with a hospital. |
| 24 | could be hospitals that will be cheper than your | 24 | MS. HOMES: Another condition that |
| 25 | center for same of these procedires? | 25 | had is that the ASC implement a policy that requires |
|  | 50 |  |  |
| 1 | MS. Coopre: I suppose there could be. | 1 | all providers to accept al1 patients regardless of |
| 2 | ar hospital in or prinary service area is the | 2 | ability to pay. They must base their determination |
| 3 | acadanic medical center. So when we consider what | 3 | of verue on factors other than type or a |
| 4 | ar dharges will be we lock at or own cost, and if | 4 | reimbursement. So a question I have for you is how |
| 5 | we have any knowledge of what the local hospital in | 5 | will you enforce such a policy? What data will you |
| 6 | or primary service area is, we certainly ensure that | 6 | be using to ensure all patients are served and there |
| 7 | ar standard dharges will be below that and in a lot | 7 | isn't cream skirming going on, and what consequences |
| 8 | of cases half of the price that we know of at the | 8 | would exist if there was evidence of that within the |
| 9 | local hospital in our primary service area if we know | 9 | providers in your grap? How are you going to |
| 10 | What that darge is. | 10 | enforce this policy? I see you have it on your web |
| 11 | There was at the begirning of 2019 a | 11 | site. How are you gring to enforce it? How are you |
| 12 | rule passed by Medicare that hospitals have to list | 12 | gring to check that is not happering? |
| 13 | charges on their web site for patients to see. The | 13 | MS. Copre: So we have - we are gring |
| 14 | hospitals here in vermont do have price lists posted | 14 | to be compiling our payer mix data quarterly, also to |
| 15 | on their web site, but there are holes all over it in | 15 | post to ar web site. So we will be revieving all of |
| 16 | terms of different CPT codes have no prices next to | 16 | the cases that come to the center and which |
| 17 | then or are not on the list. Same codes are on the | 17 | Whether they were covered by Medicare or commercial |
| 18 | list and have prices. So where we can find data on | 18 | or other insurance, and that way we will have insight |
| 19 | what the local hospital price is we are ensuring that | 19 | into certain physicians if they are bringing us anly |
| 20 | ar stancard darges that we are plaming to offer | 20 | cormercial cases or anly self pay cases. We also |
| 21 | are well below that and in a lot of cases 50 percent | 21 | have a peer review policy where surgeons review other |
| 22 | below that price. | 22 | surgeans looking at their cases and dart notes. We |
| 23 | MS. HDMES: But at this point you're | 23 | have also talked about putting as part of ar peer |
| 24 | unwilling to ask the commercial insurers to attest to | 24 | review policy that that also include reviewing case |
| 25 | a letter saying that your prices - the negotiated | 25 | mix and payer mix from other surgeons so that could |


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| 1 | be included. | 1 | procedire exactly men, and according to like Johns |
| 2 | MS. HOMES: So that whole process if | 2 | Hopkins the defirition of elective surgery is not |
| 3 | samebody was only bringing in say commercial, there | 3 | emergent and plamed in advance, which strikes me as |
| 4 | would be some action that would be taken, say hey you | 4 | probably most of the procedres that the arbulatory |
| 5 | got to rebalance your payer mix here at the | 5 | surgical center is doing. |
| 6 | anbulatory surgical center? | 6 | So I gress I wented some clarification |
| 7 | MS. COPRR: Yes. | 7 | on what you ment, and I'm sure that nasn't what you |
| 8 | MS. HDMES: ckay, and also similar to | 8 | meant, but what is it that you meant by the darity |
| 9 | that you have - we have conditioned approval on the | 9 | care policy not including elective or cosmetic |
| 10 | adpotion of shared decision making policy. So again | 10 | procedre? |
| 11 | how will you enforce that providers are providing | 11 | MS. Cocpre: So what we meant by that |
| 12 | patients with all the information they need and they | 12 | was again cosmetic procedres that the patient |
| 13 | are engaging patients in that decision making? HWW | 13 | decides that they went to have and decides that they |
| 14 | do you enforce that policy? | 14 | went to pay for. we certainly would anticipate that |
| 15 | MS. CCoprr: So I haven't thought in | 15 | the great majority of all procedres at the center |
| 16 | depth about how we're going to enforce that policy. | 16 | would come under the free and discounted care policy. |
| 17 | It is something when I talk to all the physicians | 17 | I believe actually that langage is probably directly |
| 18 | about shared decision making policy here's what it | 18 | from UMMC or Northwest policies. I don't know if |
| 19 | is, here's what it says you have to do, the response | 19 | you dedeed that. |
| 20 | that I have gotten from nearly everyone is yes this | 20 | MS. HOMES: I did it. |
| 21 | is the normal part of how we talk with or patients | 21 | MS. Coopr: we just tried to match it. |
| 22 | about their procedres, we do this in the office, we | 22 | MS. HIMES: Interestingly UMMC they |
| 23 | do it in an informed consent procedire which happens | 23 | lay out what they excluck; sterilization, reversal |
| 24 | at all hospitals and surgery centers. We - this is | 24 | IVF, and cosmetic, teeth extraction, sterilization, |
| 25 | the normal part of our practice given that need back | 25 | cosmetic and routine ge exars. So they lay out very |
|  | 54 |  |  |
| 1 | frim all the surgeans who I sat with and disaused | 1 | specifically what they exclude. Yours was elective |
| 2 | the policy with, I have not conterplated needing an | 2 | or cosmetic. So I was questioning what is in the |
| 3 | audit review process on that policy. | 3 | elective category. |
| 4 | MS. HOMES: Patient satisfaction - you | 4 | MS. Coarer: we have not defined it |
| 5 | do patient satisfaction surveys. That might be | 5 | specifically, but I thirk the understanding innolved |
| 6 | another way, venicle, to find out actually if they | 6 | in drafting it would be that would be cosmetic |
| 7 | were informed of al1 the altermatives and al1 of | 7 | procedres. We can define it more specifically and |
| 8 | that. | 8 | resimnit the policy with more specific definitions to |
| 9 | On your self pay policy, wrich is | 9 | match. |
| 10 | another aspect of same of ar conditions, your self | 10 | MS. Hones: dkay. That would be |
| 11 | pay policy only applies to medically necessary | 11 | fantastic, and I have two other questions about the |
| 12 | services. So I'm arious what is excluded from that? | 12 | darity care.; The finencial aspect of it, the |
| 13 | MS. Copre: So there is another policy | 13 | policy specific income driteria, and it also mentions |
| 14 | that adtresses cosmetic procedires and payment rates | 14 | asset criteria, but I actually couldn't find a |
| 15 | for elective procedres and so this is just to | 15 | threshold for the asset value on that. So maybe as |
| 16 | indicate - and those would be fuilly paid by the | 16 | you're looking at that again perhaps you could look |
| 17 | patient because we would not offer discounts on | 17 | at that, and then the policy also specifies discount |
| 18 | elective cosmetic procedres. | 18 | off charges for various income levels, but I was not |
| 19 | MS. HONES: dkay, and actually that | 19 | sure the discont off of what darge would that be. |
| 20 | brings up a second question because the drarity care | 20 | MS. Coorrr: So that would be the |
| 21 | policy, which there was a condition that must be on | 21 | standard darges that we have which will be listed an |
| 22 | par with UM and Nortwestern's, in that policy you | 22 | ar web site. |
| 23 | state that services cormected with elective or | 23 | MS. HOMES: Discount off the commercial |
| 24 | cosmetic procedires are not included, and so I was | 24 | darges? |
| 25 | actually arious and looked up what's elective | 25 | MS. Corpr: Yes. Yes. |

1 be included. sambooly was anly bringing in say commercial, there would be some action that would be taken, say hey you got to rebalance your payer mix here at the anbulatory surgical center?

MS. CorPR: Yes.
MS. HONES: dkay, and also similar to that you have - we have conditioned approval on the adoption of shared decision making policy. So again how will you enforce that providers are providing patients with all the information they need and they are engaging patients in that dacision making? How do you enforce that policy?

MS. COPFR: SO I haven't thought in depth about how we're going to efforce that policy. It is something when I talk to all the physicians about shared dacision making policy here's what it is, here's what it says you have to do, the response that I have gotten from nearly everyone is yes this is the normal part of how we talk with ar patients about their procedres, we do this in the office, we do it in an informed consent procedire which happens at all hospitals and surgery centers. We - this is the normal part of our practice given that need back
procedre exactly mean, and according to like Johns Hopkins the definition of elective surgery is not emergent and plamed in advance, which strikes me as probably most of the procedres that the anbulatory surgical center is doing.

So I guess I wanted same clarification on what you meant, and I'm sure that wasn't what you meant, but what is it that you meant by the darity care policy not including elective or cosmetic procedre?

MS. Coopre: So what we meant by that was agrin cosmetic procedres that the patient decides that they want to have and decides that they want to pay for. We certainly would anticipate that the great majority of all procedres at the center would come under the free and discounted care policy. I believe actually that langage is probably directly from UMMC or Northwest policies. I dan't know if you checked that.

MS. HOMES: I did it.
MS. Coopre: we just tried to match it.
MS. HONES: Interestingly UMMC they lay out what they exclude; sterilization, reversal IMF, and cosmetic, teeth extraction, sterilization, cosmetic and routine eye exars. So they lay out very
specifically what they excluck. Yours was elective or cosmetic. So I was questioning what is in the elective category.

MS. Coprer: we have not defined it specifically, but I thirk the understanding involved in drafting it would be that would be cosmetic procedres. We can define it more specifically and resubnit the policy with more specific definitions to match.

MS. HOMES: dkay. That would be fantastic, and I have two other qestions about the charity care.; The financial aspect of it, the policy specific income criteria, and it also mentions asset criteria, but I actually couldh't find a threshold for the asset value on that. So meybe as you're looking at that again perhaps you could look at that, and then the policy also specifies discant off dharges for various income levels, but I nas not sure the discount off of what darge would that be.

MS. Coopre: So that would be the stanclard charges that we have which will be listed on ar web site.

MS. HOMES: Discount off the cormercial darges?

MS. Coprr: Yes. Yes.

|  | 57 |  | 59 |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| 1 | MS. Howes: day. | 1 | you will have your public web site available? I know |
| 2 | MS. Coopre: And we do not plan to have | 2 | it's tho weeks before qparing. Is that arrently |
| 3 | any asset dhecking as part of our free and discounted | 3 | June 1 for cparing? |
| 4 | care policy so we can remove - when we restrnit the | 4 | MS. Copre: So the way that the Joint |
| 5 | policy with a more clearly defined what procedires | 5 | Commission and MS certification process works is |
| 6 | are excluded we'll also remove the reference to asset | 6 | that I have to give them my calendar of when we'11 be |
| 7 | check. | 7 | available to be surveyed for two months and they come |
| 8 | HDNES: Fantastic. Thark you. | 8 | whenever they went. So they might come on week two, |
| 9 | MS. UNE: Hi, Any, good to see you. I | 9 | they might come on week six, week eight. So I don't |
| 10 | just went to retum first to the question of price. | 10 | know when we're gring to get ar Joint commission |
| 11 | Do you recall when we were here dring the hearing | 11 | accreditation as certification, but then everything |
| 12 | talking about darging one price for your procedres? | 12 | flows from that date afterwards. we would hope to |
| 13 | MS. COPFR: Yes. | 13 | open as som as possible after that date. |
| 14 | MS. UNE: Regarcless of payer type? | 14 | MS. LNEE: dkay. Thark you. So you'11 |
| 15 | MS. COPFR: Yes. | 15 | keep us posted on how that's going? |
| 16 | MS. UNE: Hive you in your commercial | 16 | MS. Coopre: Yes. |
| 17 | negotiation suggested the Medicare price as the | 17 | MS. UNE: In terms of shared decision |
| 18 | discounted reinhursement level? | 18 | making and in condition 2 are you - will you have |
| 19 | MS. COPPR: | 19 | decision aides available for the sevices offered by |
| 20 | MS. UNE: Thark you, and are you in | 20 | the surgeans performing surgeries at your center? |
| 21 | negotiations with more then one commercial payer at | 21 | MS. Corre: we still have work to do in |
| 22 | this point? | 22 | terms of working with the surgeans on what they |
| 23 | MS. Corrr: Just to clarify I believe | 23 | arrently use and what are the right decision aides. |
| 24 | that I indicated that the price for the procedure | 24 | We at the center do not have that knowledge and would |
| 25 | ought to be the same no matter who the cormercial | 25 | rely on ar surgeans to provide gridance which I |
|  | 58 |  | 0 |
| 1 | payers were because they are often different based on | 1 | believe is how the policy is written as well. |
| 2 | which commercial insurer you have. That was the | 2 | MS. LNEE: Great, but I guess my |
| 3 | intent. I have found through leaming about the | 3 | question was doviasly the surgeons would be going |
| 4 | cormercial insurance contracting market more, having | 4 | over the decision aides with their own patients, but |
| 5 | actually been inolved now in commercial contracting | 5 | would those decision aides be available from your web |
| 6 | situations, that we are one tiny player in a very | 6 | site? |
| 7 | large well established contracting market, and are | 7 | MS. Coarte I don't know that we've |
| 8 | not in a position to dictate terms except to ensure | 8 | thought about that yet at this time. |
| 9 | we are offering good value and lower prices than | 9 | MS. UNE: dkay. Thark you. In terms |
| 10 | other facilities based on the information that we | 10 | of ACO participation, the participation agrement or |
| 11 | have. | 11 | the intent to participate for 2020 is a non-binding |
| 12 | MS. UNE: So your assertion is that a | 12 | dooment. Do you have any reason to believe that you |
| 13 | commercial payer would prefer to pay a higher | 13 | won't participate in 2020 at least based on your |
| 14 | reinbursement than Medicare? | 14 | knowledge today? |
| 15 | MS. Coprer: I don't - I don't think | 15 | MS. Corpr: No I have no reason to |
| 16 | that they would prefer to pay a higher reinbursenent | 16 | believe that we won't. |
| 17 | than Medicare. I thirk that they would prefer to pay | 17 | MS. UNE: would you be amenble to |
| 18 | as low as possible given what the center would | 18 | having some sort of participation dealline included? |
| 19 | require to cover its cost. | 19 | MS. Coprer: Yes and I thirk I talked |
| 20 | MS. UNE: Thark you. Are you - my | 20 | with Kevin Stone and Vidky Loner recently about |
| 21 | question was actually are you negotiating with more | 21 | this. You know there - and we talked dout when |
| 22 | then one commercial payer at this time? | 22 | their contracting gcle is. I believe that final |
| 23 | MS. Corrr: Yes. | 23 | contracts are die in the Septeriber/october period and |
| 24 | MS. UNE: So going back to the | 24 | we would certainly be amenable and would sign that |
| 25 | conditions do you have an estimate of the date when | 25 | contract, and if the board wents to put a condition |


|  | 61 |
| :---: | :---: |
| 1 | that we sign that contract, we are comfortable with |
| 2 | that as well. |
| 3 | MS. UNE: Thark you, and it's probably |
| 4 | premature since you're still in your negotiations on |
| 5 | the - with your payers, but have you - do you have |
| 6 | any thoughts on altemative payment models that you |
| 7 | would participate in should the ACO be amerable to |
| 8 | that? |
| 9 | MS. COOPER: Yeah we have disassed |
| 10 | doing episode based bundled payments where we would |
| 11 | get ar surgeans, anesthesia, and the facility |
| 12 | together. We work with the ACO on which procedures, |
| 13 | you know, are most - they would be most interested |
| 14 | in based an volumes I suppose of attributed patients, |
| 15 | and that if we could work out a bundled rate between |
| 16 | the facility and the surgeon and the |
| 17 | anesthesiologist, all of our providers and surgeans |
| 18 | and anesthesiologists in the facility are very open |
| 19 | to that. we have edrcated that that would be part of |
| 20 | ar plan as we go forward, and that wes the same |
| 21 | idmas that Vidki Loaner and Kevin Stone reflected to |
| 22 | me in our recent conversation about what they were |
| 23 | thinking would be the first alternative payment model |
| 24 | that we might get into. |
| 25 | MS. UNE: Thark you. In reference to |

the transfer agreement with UM and the agreement with the anbulance service, it's actually related also to B11, I nas carias to know if all of the physicians practicing with you would have privileges at UMMC. I just wented to understand if there might be a ciranstance where there was a surgean who didh't have a relationship with uMC but would have a patient with you that would then get transferred to UMMC so there could be a continuity of care issue.

MS. coprer: Yes there may be a case that the surgeon would not have privileges at UMMC, but their patient would get transferred to UMMC. That shouldn't be a problen, though, in terms of continuity of care. The commurication woild still work between the physician and the - and unMC. often a lot of comunity physicians don't follow their patients in the hospital. Patients often are taken over their care by a hospitalist in the hospital. The surgean or other physician remains in the commnity and comunicates with the hospitalist about the care of the patient. So that's - there is a working system set up in the event that we were to have a patient who is a patient of a non-UMMC credentialed physician adritted to UMMC.

MS. UNEE: dkay. Thark you for

1 survey.

1 addressing that. So in terms of the Joint Commission review I thirk you had mentianed in same of your materials that the Joint Cormission review includes reviewing surgeries. So can you just explain a little bit more about how that process works?

MS. CCOPRR: Yes absolutely, and I apologize to Representative Jidkling who is here from House Health Care. I just went through this yestercay. Susan, you were there as wel1, but the I have materials describing the accreditation process of the Joint Commission. So a survey lasts two to three days and sureyors will come and visit the arbulatory surgery center and interview staff and patients to validate the meeting of the Joint Commissian's and OS requirement. They actually will trace tho patients throughout the facility from their chedk-in to their pre-q, into their procedres, their post-qp, their disdharge conversation, and instruction, and adit all that to make sure that the facility is meeting all of the requirements. They don't just rely on interviens with staff or menagement. It is actually a condition of being eligible for a survey that a center has - even a new center has seen at least 10 patients before you can ask the Joint commission or CNS to come in to do a misunderstood, but I thought you said a few minutes ago that the web site would be up two weeks before you qpened. You can't apen until you do the joint commission, but samehow you're going to have patients before you qpen?

MS. Coorer: Yes. So we are just having preliminary patients anly schediled for the purpose of OMS certification. We are not charging anything or receiving any kind of reinbursement for services. These patients essentially get a free service from the facility. We are anly doing it in order to meet ass certification. There are no other patients schediled for any reason and we are not darging anything for these patients.

MS. UNモ: Thark you. That's helpfui. So in terms of $\mathrm{B9}$ dbout the 25 most frequent procedres and surgeries it sounds like what you'11 be posting is the drarges not the actual price.

MS. Coopre: So price is a term that gets defined a lot of different ways.

MS. UNE: Not the allowed amont.
MS. Cocrir: Right. The allowed amount from the cormercial insurers. So the allowed amount

| 65 |  | 6 |  |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| 1 | from different cormercial insurers will likely be | 1 | cosmetic procedires. |
| 2 | different. So we had thought about well should we | 2 | MS. LNE: And the - so in the second |
| 3 | show an average of the allowed amount or should - | 3 | cee of your procedure the self pay patient |
| 4 | what should we show here. The only consistent nunber | 4 | undergoes miltiple procedires. Procedires subsequent |
| 5 | will be the standard charge and then the allowed | 5 | to the first shall be subject to a 50 percent |
| 6 | amout with commercial insurers will always be below | 6 | discount off of self pay rates. That's a little bit |
| 7 | that because the way the negotiations work is they | 7 | unclear in terms of ensuring that it is also equal to |
| 8 | went discounts off the standard darges. So we | 8 | or lower than the cormercial rate. So I'm hoping |
| 9 | thought that the best way from a consumer perspective | 9 | that you will be willing to add a little more clarity |
| 10 | to present the information would be to say here's the | 10 | in your self pay policy because I think it's not |
| 11 | charge that's stancard and the same trroghout, but | $11$ | clear exactly what people would be expected to pay |
| 12 | if you have cormercial insurance, this is the | 12 | when. |
| 13 | absolute meximum it would be and it's most likely | 13 | MS. COOPR: dkay, and just so this is |
| 14 | much, much lower than this dharge. It also would be | 14 | just meant to mirror the way that it typically works |
| 15 | consistent with the way that other facilities are | 15 | a commercial contract where the first procedire - |
| 16 | showing their prices now since the Medicare rule | 16 | multiple procedres are done. The first procedure is |
| 17 | passed where hospital outpatient departments must | 17 | paid at a hundred percent of the rate and then |
| 18 | show their dharges. | 18 | subsequent procedures are paid at 50 percent of the |
| 19 | MS. UNE: You also indicated that you | 19 | rate. So I guess just the clarifying words that |
| 20 | will work with patients to make sure they understand | 20 | might need to be added would be that the second |
| 21 | the transparent cost of their procedire. Are you | 21 | procedure will be subject to a 50 percent discount |
| 22 | also doing that with people who are trying to shop | 22 | off the lowest allowed amount that the center gets |
| 23 | for services? | 23 | paid by contract for commercial insurers for the same |
| 24 | MS. COPPR: So our patients are the | 24 | procedire. would that satisfy? |
| 25 | only people that we will have access to their | 25 | MS. LNEE: Yes. |
|  |  |  |  |
|  | 66 |  | 68 |
| 1 | insurance information about. So who - if they are | 1 | MS. COPFR: We can update that policy |
| 2 | covered by Unitas or Aetra or CIANA, and so we can | 2 | and resumnit it. |
| 3 | look up what our arrangement is with those insurers | 3 | MS. UNEE: Thark you. How are you |
| 4 | and say here's what the procedure price will be. For | 4 | going to determine what the lowest amount paid by |
| 5 | people who are not arrently our patients we won't | 5 | contracted commercial insurers? |
| 6 | have access to their insurance information. So they | 6 | MS. COOPER: We revien all of ar |
| 7 | might cal1 us and tell us and ask us and we certainly | 7 | commercial insurance contracts and see what the |
| 8 | went to encourage them to have that information. So | 8 | lowest payment rate is for that procedre code. |
| 9 | we can tell them what our standard dharges are. If | 9 | MS. UNE: dkay. Thark you. on the |
| 10 | they say this is my insurance, we can look up and say | 10 | B15, the free - the dharity care policy, how will |
| 11 | ckay this is what it looks like the procedure would | 11 | you make potential patients avare of your free or |
| 12 | cost with us based on that insurance. | 12 | discounted care policy? |
| 13 | MS. UNEE: dkay. We had quite a bit of | 13 | MS. COPFR: It's going to be available |
| 14 | disassion around price transparency at the last | 14 | on our web site and we will also have copies |
| 15 | hearing so I wented to clarify What would happen as | 15 | available in the waiting roam. |
| 16 | apposed to What had previusly been testified to. | 16 | MS. UNE: Have you thought about |
| 17 | In terms of condition 13, which is the | 17 | potentially also providing it with people's bills? |
| 18 | self pay policy, Jess I thirk asked a caple | 18 | MS. COOPRR: No I hach't - we hach't |
| 19 | questions about this to clarify, in the self pay | 19 | considered that yet. |
| 20 | policy it indicates that a patient would be | 20 | MS. LNGE: would you please consider |
| 21 | considered self pay if they are having a medically | 21 | that? |
| 22 | necessary procedire. So that would not include all | 22 | MS. COOPR: Yes. |
| 23 | procedres that you may be offering. Is that a fair | 23 | MS. LNEE: Thark you. For the |
| 24 | assumption? | 24 | amendment request for B21 so you talked a little bit |
| 25 | MS. COPPR: Yes. It doesn't include | 25 | about the information potentially being competitively |


| 69 |  | 71 |  |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| 1 | sensitive for future employment. Are you - do you | 1 | did, and if you were to come to her and say, you |
| 2 | think that there are other issues where that | 2 | know, we see a strange trend in this data for this |
| 3 | disclosure of that information would be a problen? | 3 | practice area, then I thirk that would give Amy an |
| 4 | MS. TMR: I think - a couple things. | 4 | opportunity internally to thirk about well who are |
| 5 | We mentioned in the letter - we mentioned back in | 5 | those practitioners and address the issue on a |
| 6 | Janury the employment context and also basically the | 6 | provider-by-provider basis intermally. |
| 7 | information that's to be disclosed reveals the | 7 | MS. Compr: Thark you. I would also |
| 8 | physician's productivity, the financial productivity | 8 | add that I did a memo that I summitted to the board |
| 9 | of the physician's practice for sameone who dhooses | 9 | to show orr projected payer mix compared with the |
| 10 | you know to figure that out, and of course it also | 10 | local hospital in chittenden county payer mix, and |
| 11 | shows how many of the physician's patients he or she | 11 | those two payer mixes were quite similar. I think |
| 12 | is referring to the surgery center as apposed to the | 12 | that there will always be that bendmark available, |
| 13 | local hospital. | 13 | and if the surgery center's payer mix were to become |
| 14 | So I think there was also concern about | 14 | out of line with the local hospital, that also speaks |
| 15 | that relationship because of course all the providers | 15 | to the same patient base that would be maybe a cause |
| 16 | who do surgery at the surgery center will continue to | 16 | for concem, and that is a way that we could monitor |
| 17 | do same procedures at the hospital and I thirk they | 17 | that. |
| 18 | are sensitive about displaying, you know, how that | 18 | There's also, Karen mentioned, the |
| 19 | breaks down because they do continue to depend an | 19 | physician's persanal productivity data as being |
| 20 | access to hospital facilities to qperate their | 20 | sensitive financially and competitively. When |
| 21 | practice overall. There has been tremendous | 21 | physicians become employed by a hospital or sell |
| 22 | apposition to the surgery center in general from the | 22 | their practice to the hospital there's often a lang |
| 23 | hospitals. When we summitted the application there | 23 | negotiation around whether the practice will be paid |
| 24 | was concem about retaliation against physicians that | 24 | anything for the value of the practice and of their |
| 25 | chose to participate as owners, and I think that | 25 | patient base, and a lot of those disassions get into |
|  |  |  |  |
|  | 70 |  | 72 |
| 1 | there continues to be a degree of sensitivity about | 1 | exactly this kind of data; what's the payment, what's |
| 2 | publicizing for each doctor how many of my patients | 2 | the payer mix, what's the patient base, how active is |
| 3 | an I referring to the surgery center as aposed to, | 3 | the surgeon, and so to have individal physicians who |
| 4 | you know, the local hospital. | 4 | may need to or went to in the future sell their |
| 5 | MS. UNE: Well the purpose behind that | 5 | practice to the hospital have all that data pablicly |
| 6 | candition was to ensure that there wasn't steering | 6 | available would harm them inmensely in those |
| 7 | going on essentially. So how else would we be able | 7 | negotiations about potential sale of their practices. |
| 8 | to monitor that? | 8 | MS. UN玉: Thank you. That was |
| 9 | MS. TMRR: well I think What I said | 9 | helpful. Since you brought up payer mix let's tum |
| 10 | earlier is you know the board is - | 10 | to payer mix. So in the memo that you provided on |
| 11 | MS. LNGE: Thark you. I can see now. | 11 | April 8, 2019 that you just referred to you include |
| 12 | MS. TYRR: What I said earlier is that | 12 | your payer mix which is based on the revenue before |
| 13 | the board's purpose is to oversee the surgery center | 13 | deductions by payer category. So am I correct in |
| 14 | area operations as an entity, and I think that if the | 14 | assuming that that does not include any reductions |
| 15 | surgery center provides the data that you're | 15 | from dharges? |
| 16 | interested in an a specialty basis, that should be | 16 | MS. COPFR: No. All of our data that |
| 17 | adequate to indicate whether there's an unexpected - | 17 | we presented dring the application and always is |
| 18 | there's samething unexpected in the data. So if you | 18 | net. |
| 19 | look at all the data for GI services and you see an | 19 | MS. UNGE: So what does before |
| 20 | unexpectedly low percentage of Medicaid patients that | 20 | deductions mean? |
| 21 | are receiving those services at the center, I think | 21 | MS. COPPR: So we have in our original |
| 22 | so that's samething that you could ask Amy about, you | 22 | projectians deductians for bad debt and free care |
| 23 | know, how do you explain this, and she wes asked | 23 | Which we estimated at two and a half percent each. |
| 24 | earlier you know how do you intend to enforce this | 24 | So it's before those deductions are taken. |
| 25 | internally, and you know I think she responded as she | 25 | MS. LNGE: dkay. I was noticing that |


|  | 73 |  | 75 |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| 1 | you did't include a deduction for bad dabt or free | 1 | danged in year one. So just to say that the year |
| 2 | care then for UMMC. | 2 | one rumbers the change is more pronounced than a |
| 3 | MS. CCopre: No because it wesn't | 3 | steady state dange going forward wrich will be 4 to |
| 4 | included in others so we didh't include it in | 4 | 8 percent less per year because we resurveyed the |
| 5 | their's. That's the most apples-to-apples | 5 | physicians and said what are your monthly volumes now |
| 6 | comparison. | 6 | and used those numbers for ar updated projections as |
| 7 | MS. UNE: But you did include DSF? | 7 | apposed to the monthly volume numbers for 2014 that |
| 8 | MS. Coprer: Yes which we could have not | 8 | they put in the original projection. So it was just |
| 9 | included DSH as wel1. If we dn't include DSH, it | 9 | a drange in their monthly volume between those three |
| 10 | makes the payer mix shift more towards commercial for | 10 | years and intervering time. |
| 11 | UMMC. | 11 | MS. UNE: Thark you, and the change in |
| 12 | MS. UNE: ${ }^{\text {did you look at the payer }}$ | 12 | OB/GN is between 38 and 47 percent in cases in that |
| 13 | mix for Northestem? | 13 | dart? |
| 14 | MS. Coprr: No. | 14 | MS. Coarre: Yes. |
| 15 | MS. UNE: So let me get organized | 15 | MS. UNE: According to your marrative |
| 16 | here. So turning to scape, of the irritial physicians | 16 | that's die to retirements? |
| 17 | provided in your application 10 remain the same; is | 17 | MS. Copre: Yes. |
| 18 | that correct? | 18 | MS. UNE: Orthopedics is an incresse |
| 19 | MS. Coprer: Versus the initial | 19 | between 41 and 63 percent due to practice danges? |
| 20 | projections and the updated projections, yes. | 20 | MS. Compr: Yech. Busier. More |
| 21 | MS. UNE: And that was out of how many | 21 | volume. |
| 22 | original docs participating? | 22 | MS. UNE: And then 93 to 94 percent |
| 23 | MS. COPPR: 16. | 23 | reduction in pain managment? |
| 24 | MS. UNE: And there are | 24 | MS. Corre: Yeah. We had two original |
| 25 | physicians included in the updated projections? | 25 | busy physiciass in pain menagement who have danged |
|  | 74 |  |  |
| 1 | MS. Coapre: Yes. Yes. | 1 | their practices to not do procedires that would work |
| 2 | MS. UNE: And in your updated | 2 | in an ASC any more. |
| 3 | projections you're arrently showing a 17 percent - | 3 | MS. UNE: Thark you, and I noticed in |
| 4 | between 4 percent and 17 percent decresse in GI for | 4 | your marrative that you indicated that that was dre |
| 5 | cases? | 5 | to dange in patient danand, reintursement levels, |
| 6 | MS. Corre: I thirk that's correct. I | 6 | and practice patterns as you just explained. Can you |
| 7 | don't have it in front of me. | 7 | talk about the reinbursenent level piece of that? |
| 8 | MS. LNE: It's page 2 of your Noveriber | 8 | MS. Cocrer: The payment rates for |
| 9 | 19 memo if that helps. | 9 | certain pain procedres sametimes commercial insurers |
| 10 | MS. COPRR: Yes. | 10 | here in the state have decided to stop covering |
| 11 | MS. UNE: GI was originally 60 | 11 | procedires that they used to cover. So when I |
| 12 | percent. You were projecting 60 percent of your | 12 | reached out to these physicians after they did not |
| 13 | volume to be related to GI originally? | 13 | have updated projections I said what's going on and |
| 14 | MS. COPFR: Yes. | 14 | they said well the commercial insurers decided to |
| 15 | MS. UNE: And the dange there is why? | 15 | stop covering some of the stuff we were doing. |
| 16 | MS. Copre: So the danges - you can | 16 | MS. LNE: cot it. Thark you, and then |
| 17 | see the danges in year two and year three and year | 17 | a reduction in general surgery between 36 and 45 |
| 18 | faur are between 4 and 8 percest. | 18 | percent as well. This dart indicates that you |
| 19 | MS. UNE: Why is it danging? | 19 | did't originally project cases for plastic surgery |
| 20 | MS. Coorre: The dange in year one is | 20 | or qhthalmology, right? |
| 21 | more pronounced because in ar updated projections we | 21 | MS. Cocpre: Yes that's thue. |
| 22 | thirk it's going to take us langer to ramp up than we | 22 | MS. UNE: Thark you. |
| 23 | did initially. So in ar initial projections we had | 23 | MS. Coorrr: I just - also ar actuals |
| 24 | a higher number of initial patients in year ane. | 24 | When we are actually pperating may look different |
| 25 | Here we have a lower number becase our assumption | 25 | than the projections also just becasse these danges |


| that I mentioned in that sumnission that have been 77 |  |  | 79 |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
|  |  | 1 | physician M who was a pain menegement specialist in |
| 2 | ccarring since 2015; physicians retiring, noving, et | 2 | the original projection is dbviously a different |
| 3 | cetera, that it continues to be a dyanric | 3 | person or went back and got a new specialty in |
| 4 | envirament. | 4 | OB/GN. I was wondering if you could please update |
| 5 | MS. UNE: Yes. The hearing an this | 5 | this so that we can see apples-to-aples with |
| 6 | Certificate of need was Apri1 13, 2017, was it not? | 6 | physicians and not - it's a little hard to track |
| 7 | MS. Coprer: Yes it was. | 7 | When we can't see where there's actually peaple who |
| 8 | MS. UNE: And did you update these | 8 | left and people who have been adked. |
| 9 | projections at that time? | 9 | MS. Coprr: I'll have to deck with |
| 10 | MS. Coprer: No. | 10 | Avaka, my consultants who I mentioned who filled al1 |
| 11 | MS. UNE: Thark you. In terms of why | 11 | these tobles and did the projections for me. |
| 12 | plastic surgery was not included in the initial | 12 | MS. UNE: Great. Thark you. So just |
| 13 | projections you indicated there at the time of your | 13 | in terms of again just finalizing questions around |
| 14 | application there were no independent plastic | 14 | the projections, so in yar original submission |
| 15 | surgeons practicing in chittenden canty? | 15 | because you were foased an the specialties Gr, |
| 16 | Ms. Coprer: Yes. | 16 | OB/GN, ortho, pain manegenent, and general surgery |
| 17 | MS. UNE: Tharks, and how many - do | 17 | your reverue projections also did not include plastic |
| 18 | appen to know how meny independent plastic | 18 | surgery, qhthalmology, or any other specialty; is |
| 19 | surgeons are practicing in crittenden county? | 19 | that right? |
| 20 | MS. Coopre: I believe there's two. | 20 | MS. Coltr: ${ }^{\text {That's correct. }}$ |
| 21 | MS. UNE: Thark you. | 21 | MS. UNE: In terms of payer mix I was |
| 22 | MS. Coprer: I also would say if it were | 22 | noticing that your reverue projections by payer mix |
| 23 | easy for us to do updated projections, we would do | 23 | have also dhanged significantly from your original |
| 24 | them more frequently. It is a very innolved process | 24 | projection. So your new projections, which are on |
| 25 | of readring out to individal physicians with | 25 | page 7 of that stanission, indicate that you're |
|  | 78 |  |  |
| 1 | survess. This was run by ar consuittants Avara | 1 | expecting between 42 and 49 percent less reverue from |
| 2 | Strategies, and getting information from them or | 2 | Medicare, 23 to 33 percent less revenue from |
| 3 | their practice managers, or whichever person in the | 3 | Medicaid, 1 to 13 percent less reverue from |
| 4 | practice keeps track of that information, getting it | 4 | commercial, 23 to 33 percent from self pay; is that |
| 5 | from all different physicians in a uniform format, | 5 | right? |
| 6 | and then engaging Avarza and paying their consultant | 6 | MS. Coorer: Ye |
| 7 | basically to put together projections. So | 7 | MS. UNE: So what's cassing that shift |
| 8 | projections and updated firancials is not something | 8 | partiailarly dowward in Medicare and Medicaid? |
| 9 | that we're doing regilarly at al1. The ones that I | 9 | MS. Coart: well that's just a function |
| 10 | do have I have strmitted to the board. | 10 | of the different physicians that we have in the mix |
| 11 | MS. UNE: Thark you, and in terms of | 11 | now then the ones that we had earlier. When we do |
| 12 | qhthalmology in your application you explained at | 12 | updated projections we also ask the physicians for |
| 13 | the time of the application those services were not | 13 | their arrent payer mix, and again their practice |
| 14 | includkd because you did not have as many interested | 14 | manager or someone in their office gives it to us. |
| 15 | surgeons as you did now and had not completed die | 15 | Because or group of physicians has danged so much |
| 16 | diligence on cost and efficiency of moving | 16 | it would be a natural result of that, that our payer |
| 17 | vitreoretinal coses; is that right? | 17 | mix woild dange. For example, physicians in |
| 18 | Ms. COPFR: Yes. | 18 | different specialties often have very different payer |
| 19 | MS. UNE: So in terms of your | 19 | mixes. GI, for example, basically the American Task |
| 20 | projected cases by physician - this is an page 4 and | 20 | Force on Preventative Health Metrics - I'm saying |
| 21 | 5 of that same subrission - I was noticing that in | 21 | that wrong - but recently updated their |
| 22 | your original - it looks like the physiciass listed | 22 | recommendations and cormercial insurers have started |
| 23 | in your original projections compared to your - the | 23 | covering colon cancer screering starting at age 45 |
| 24 | new physician list are a little bit hard to track | 24 | which then makes the payer mix for GI doctors more |
| 25 | because you've raused the letters. So, for example, | 25 | slanted towards commercial because all of a sudten |

physician $M$ who was a pain management specialist in the original projection is dbviously a different person or went back and got a new specialty in OB/GN. I was wondering if you coild please update this so that we can see apples-to-apples with physicians and not - it's a little hard to track when we can't see where there's actually people who left and peaple who have been added.

MS. Coopr: I'll have to check with Avarza, my consultants who I mentianed who filled al1 these tables and did the projections for me.

MS. UNE: Great. Thark you. So just in terms of again just finalizing questions around the projections, so in yar original sabmission because you were foased an the specialties GI, OB/GN, ortho, pain management, and general surgery your revenue projections also did not include plastic surgery, qhthalmology, or any other specialty; is

MS. COPRR: That's correct.
MS. UNE: In terms of payer mix I was noticing that your revenue projections by payer mix have also dhanged sigrificantly from your original projection. So your new projections, which are on page 7 of that sulmission, indicate that you're

Medicare, 23 to 33 percent less revenue from Medicaid, 1 to 13 percent less reverue from commercial, 23 to 33 percent from self pay; is that

MS. Coprer: Yes.
MS. UNE: So what's causing that shift
MS. CCOPR: Well that's just a finction of the different physicians that we have in the mix now than the ones that we had earlier. When we do updated projections we also ask the physicians for their current payer mix, and again their practice menager or sameone in their office gives it to us. Because ar group of physicians has danged so much it nould be a natural result of that, that our payer mix would dange. For example, physicians in different specialties often have very different payer mixes. GI, for example, basically the American Task Force on Preventative Health Metrics - I'm saying that wrong - but recently updated their recommendations and cormercial insurers have started covering colon cancer screaning starting at age 45 slanted towards cormercial because all of a suddn

| 81 |  |  | GAIR MUTN: So I'11 be brief becase |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| 1 | they have all these patients who are 45 who are | 1 |  |
| 2 | commercially insured that they did't have before. | 2 | the tho previous menbers have been very thorough, but |
| 3 | Also if you have CB/GN doctors, they | 3 | I wented to ask you what you envisioned could |
| 4 | generally don't have any Medicare patients because | 4 | possibly be in the fiture as far as the expansion of |
| 5 | Medicare is old. If you have ege doctors, they | 5 | scope. You could start with qhithalmology, we could |
| 6 | generally have mostly Medicare patients. Retina | 6 | talk about each one of the specialties, but I'm just |
| 7 | surgery is a low volume surgery - low volume | 7 | arious what you thirk the bounds of what the |
| 8 | specialty in qhthalmology, very low volume corpared | 8 | expansion of the scope would be. |
| 9 | to cataract or others. So while those are mostly | 9 | MS. Cocrer: In terms of specialties |
| 10 | Medicare patients it's not a large part of ar mix | 10 | that we would consider bringing on in the near term |
| 11 | compared to the high volume GI, for example. | 11 | the only other that I have had conversations about |
| 12 | MS. UNE: dkay. It also looks in your | 12 | would be pectiatric dentistry. There is a need for |
| 13 | cases by payer category that you're expecting a | 13 | drildren who have to get teeth pulled and need |
| 14 | significant decrease in Medicare cases overall, | 14 | general anesthesia for that to be done in procedire |
| 15 | between 30 and 40 percent, over the carse of the | 15 | roans or operating roans, and I have heard from tho |
| 16 | four years. That's on page 9. | 16 | dental providers and the comunity Health Center in |
| 17 | MS. COPRR: | 17 | Burlington that there is a need for general |
| 18 | MS. UNE: And again that's related to | 18 | anesthesia services in procedure roans to do that |
| 19 | the shift in how meny cases are conning from which | 19 | sort of work. So that's the only one that I have had |
| 20 | specialty? | 20 | conversations about in the near term |
| 21 | MS. COPFR: From which specialty. So, | 21 | GAIR MUTN: On the ortho looks like |
| 22 | for example, we also previcusly had pain menagement | 22 | primarily hand surgeries. What do you see as fiuture |
| 23 | is a very high volume specialty. It's, you know, | 23 | possibilities being performed at your facility? |
| 24 | injectable things that are done qridkly and a lot of | 24 | MS. COFPR: That is entirely dependant |
| 25 | them usually. Those tho physicians in partiailar had | 25 | on whether there's any physician interest. There |
|  |  |  |  |
|  | 82 |  | 84 |
| 1 | a lot of Medicare patients and they are not part of | 1 | were three years ago tho independent orthopedic |
| 2 | ar projections any more. So that denged ar mix. | 2 | practices in the state, one in chittenden canty with |
| 3 | MS. UNE: Great. Thark you for | 3 | fur physicians that did all kinds of general ortho |
| 4 | explairing that. cring back to condition 10 so you | 4 | cases, one in the central part of the state. Those |
| 5 | indicated today that you - or I should say that you | 5 | physicians sold their practices and became employed |
| 6 | mentioned you subritted to us evidence basis for the | 6 | in 2016. There's no other independent orthopedic |
| 7 | specialties that you were intending to provide. When | 7 | surgeans that I know of right now that would went to |
| 8 | we reviened that I gress my question for you is are | 8 | use the center. |
| 9 | you also relying on any articles that you provided in | 9 | OAIR MUN: Would you agree that a |
| 10 | your initial application becase quite frankly in, | 10 | central foas of the initial CNN was a foas on the |
| 11 | for example, the materials that you provided for GI, | 11 | vermont patient, the consumer, basically a foas an |
| 12 | just to pidk one out, I was surprised to see that you | 12 | really access, quality, and cost in that there was |
| 13 | only provided evidence basically around | 13 | much discussion about converience for the patients. |
| 14 | colonoscopies, but I assume that you intend to do | 14 | Sane patients den't went to go to a hospital setting |
| 15 | other procedres in the GI specialty other than | 15 | for a surgery. There was also disassion dbout in a |
| 16 | colonoscopies. | 16 | very key part of the decision was a lower cost |
| 17 | MS. CCopre: We are also relying on al1 | 17 | altermative to the vermont patient, and do you agree |
| 18 | of the evidence that's been presented since the | 18 | with that? |
| 19 | origimal application as wel1. | 19 | ms. Copre: Yes. |
| 20 | MS. UNE: day. That's helpfiul | 20 | GAIR MUTN: So an the qhthalmology, |
| 21 | because I was trying to get a sense of what you | 21 | wrich wasn't disaussed previously and was disassed |
| 22 | wented us to consider when we were looking at | 22 | now, how broad a scope do you thirk coild ocar in |
| 23 | factually whether or not you had met that condition. | 23 | the expansion of services provided there in the |
| 24 | I thirk I'm done for now. I may have some followp | 24 | future? |
| 25 | after I check my notes, but - | 25 | MS. Corre: I'm not sure how to answer |


|  | 85 |
| :---: | :---: |
| 1 | that question． |
| 2 | OHIR MUTN：So，for example，a few |
| 3 | years ago I had an eyelid that was scraped but the |
| 4 | surgery was done inside an eye doctor＇s office． |
| 5 | could that type of surgery be performed at your |
| 6 | center？ |
| 7 | MS．Coopir：We do not have any plans to |
| 8 | do any surgery that is arrently being performed in |
| 9 | an office in the surgery center． |
| 10 | OHIR MUTN：dkay．Do you have any |
| 11 | plans to do any surgeries that are performed at the |
| 12 | other anbulatory surgery center that is the only |
| 13 | other one that＇s arrently in Vermont？ |
| 14 | MS．Compres So none of the surgeries |
| 15 | that are in our updated qphthalmology projections |
| 16 | would be moving from one arbulatory surgery center to |
| 17 | another．All of the cases in the updated projections |
| 18 | would be moving out of the hospital into an |
| 19 | anbulatory surgery center for the first time． |
| 20 | OHIR MUTN：So that＇s today．I＇m |
| 21 | talking about in the future．What type of garantees |
| 22 | would we as Vermonters have that you are continuing |
| 23 | to offer a more convenient，lower cost setting for |
| 24 | anything that could be performed there？You never |
| 25 | raised the issue of qphthalmology in the original |

1 CON．You talked about being lower then hospitals 2 because the procedres that you were going to do were 3 being dane in hospitals，and so what I＇m foasing an 4 is what garantees do we have that you won＇t be a 5 higher cost altemative to other qtions autside of
the hospital？

MS．Coprer：Al1 I can say is that all of the qhithalmology cases that we plan to do are arrently being performed in hospitals and we are confident that we will be a lower price，partiailarly because most qhthalmology patients are Medicare patients than where those procedres are arrently being performed．

GAIR MUNN：I＇m listering very carefuilly to your words and you＇re saying arrently planing to do and I＇m just worried about what protections there are for future decisians on what could be done．

MS．Copre：I＇m not sure．I guess I would have to leave it up to the board．

OAIR MUN：Ckay．Thark you．
MR．P⿴囗十MM：Well welcame back．It＇s my first experience with you folks．Looks like a very long trail since 2015 which hopefully I have read and absorbed most of it．I anly have one question．You
said in your Apri1 8 stanission that quote＂overall the payer mix profiles of UMC for fiscal year 2018 and GMSC in our updated projection are essentially the same，＂and there＇s an－in your documentation that you have－and I agree with you－that UMK had about 60 percent cormercial， 9 percent Medicaid， and 30 percent Medicare．How does UMMC payer mix and your nubers arrently compare to that？Do you know or have any sense as to where un＇s payer mix fits in terms of the rank order of payer mixes in the state where the more favored commercial－the more favored payer mix would be a strong comercial and a strong Medicare and then a third place in terms of Medicaid，do you have any sense of where um fits in that hierarchy of the 14 hospitals in vermont？

MS．Coopre：I certainly have a serse of the drittenden canty patient population payer mix versus the rest of the state from my work at Health First with the independent practices，and in－from that information drittenden county does have the highest percentage of crmmercial patients compared to practices located in other canties or more rural areas．They tend to have higher Mecticaid and Medicare populations．

M．PaHaM：That＇s correct．I thirk at
the 60 percent level there＇s um and Copley．So I＇m trying to kind of walk through the danges in payer mix and your procedres mix since the earlier applications and wondering what that might mean for the Nortiwestem medical center in the sense that you had previously said that about 170 or 2.7 percent of the surgeries that you performed you thought might be migrating from the Northestem Medical Center，and so I guess I have tho questions．Do you have any sense given the danges in payer mix and the danges in the mix of procedires that you＇re doing as to how that might similarly affect the Northest Medical center，and，if so，do you have a dollar value associated with that，and I ask that because we＇re dæ9ling with siall nubers at the margin here． If you take the for million dollars in NR that you folks are talking about today，that＇s one－tenth of one percent of the total hospital statevide NR．So we＇re really in a very small comer of the world，and－but as you get kind of closer and the neighbors that you have may be more or less affected，and so I know that the Nortiwest Mecical center＇s payer mix is 48.8 percent comercial， 17.8 percent Medicaid，and 33.4 percent Medicare．So it＇s in a less favored position，and if

|  | 89 |  | 91 |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| 1 | I - if you have any information that would give a | 1 | MS. Cocrer: Right. |
| 2 | more arrent bearing on how your services might | 2 | MS. USIFR: - in yoar billing? |
| 3 | affect Northestem Medical, it would be helpfil. | 3 | MS. Coarir: Yes. |
| 4 | MS. Coopre: I db. I haven't done the | 4 | MS. USIItre: Al1 right. Al1 my other |
| 5 | same analysis that I did in the origiral CON in terms | 5 | questions were answered. Thanks. |
| 6 | of actual data around what may move. I do know, | 6 | MS. UNEE: I have three left. I'm |
| 7 | though, that there are surgeries being done at | 7 | sorry. I know you will all find it hard - |
| 8 | Northest by surgeans who have moved back to the area | 8 | MR. BAPBR: We're over time already. |
| 9 | expressly because of the ASC and anly because of the | 9 | MS. UNE: I'11 be qrick. |
| 10 | surgery center that are now doing cases at Northwest | 10 | MR. baprer: day. |
| 11 | and have joined the medical staff at Northest and | 11 | MS. UNE: So just one followp on |
| 12 | patients who used to be in St. Albans hould have to | 12 | condition 10. I just went to clarify that the |
| 13 | travel to Burlington for their care are now able to | 13 | studies that you have provided in evidence either in |
| 14 | get their procedres done close to home at Northwest | 14 | this summission or the previous one offer a complete |
| 15 | Medical center, and that the surgeans who have adked | 15 | list of the procedres that you will be offering? |
| 16 | cases there would plan to continue doing cases at | 16 | MS. Cocrer: So they are not every - it |
| 17 | Nortiwest and at the surgery center. | 17 | depends on how you define procedire. These are the |
| 18 | I also have heard, thaugh I'm not sure | 18 | procedires across specialties that there is evidence |
| 19 | yet, that same physicians who had plamed initially | 19 | basis for that I could provide to you. They are on |
| 20 | to bring cases to the surgery center and were in ar | 20 | the GTT code level, if I said there's specific codes |
| 21 | original projections are now - have said I'm nearing | 21 | for parts of different procedires that dn't have |
| 22 | retirement, I don't feel like meking a dange, I'm | 22 | evidance based stucties associated with them, so that |
| 23 | gring to leave my cases where they are, and some of | 23 | is what happened. |
| 24 | those cases are also at Northwest. | 24 | MS. UNE: Thark you. Thark you, and |
| 25 | So I dnn't know what the net amalysis is | 25 | just to clarify are there any surgeries or procedires |
|  | 90 |  | 2 |
| 1 | in terms of an answer, but I know that having this | 1 | that you're anticipating will be performed that are |
| 2 | facility here and the way that it helps vermont | 2 | solely cosmetic and not medically necessary or |
| 3 | recurit physicians who went to have this aption that | 3 | Whatever? That may not be the appropriate clinical |
| 4 | otherwise would not be in vermont having those | 4 | term, but I thirk you get the gist. |
| 5 | physicians stay here and oftentimes bringing new | 5 | MS. Coapre: well it's interesting |
| 6 | cases to hospitals like Nortiwest is a good thing. | 6 | because who decides what's necessary. Medically |
| 7 | MR. PEHMM: Thark you. | 7 | necessary is a term used by cormercial insurers, but, |
| 8 | MS. USIIPR: There's a benefit to going | 8 | for example, a new area that is becoming much more |
| 9 | last. Most of my questions were answered. I just | 9 | needed certainly from the patient's perspective is |
| 10 | have one question on the self pay policy, and where | 10 | gender affirmation, surgeries for folks who don't |
| 11 | you talk about the discount on implants or individul | 11 | identify with the gender that they were bom into. |
| 12 | supply itens in excess of \$200 and there would be no | 12 | That is those surgeries are done by plastic surgeans. |
| 13 | disconnt, just wondering why you wouldn't get what | 13 | Same elements of those surgeries may be considered |
| 14 | commercial pays for those. | 14 | medically necessary. Same may be considered not |
| 15 | MS. Coprer: So those are not covered by | 15 | cosmetic. You know it's hard to find a definition |
| 16 | cormercial insurance. An example is for cataract | 16 | specifically of what's medically necessary versus |
| 17 | surgeries there's a - you can get a standerd kind of | 17 | cosmetic and what's medically needed versus not |
| 18 | lens or a new super improved kind of lens, and if the | 18 | needed. |
| 19 | patient wents the sper lens, they have to pay for it | 19 | MS. UNG: day, and then I know OSS in |
| 20 | out of pocket. So there's different implants and | 20 | their process has certain kinds of surgeries that |
| 21 | things that aren't covered by commercial insurance | 21 | they will pay for in an ASC versus others they have |
| 22 | that that wes meant to apply to. | 22 | not yet aproved for that setting. Are you |
| 23 | MS. USIItr: dkay. So individal supply | 23 | anticipating offering procedres that are outside of |
| 24 | iterns and things like that those are all things that | 24 | that list or would you expect that most of the |
| 25 | wouldh't be covered under commercial - | 25 | procedires or al1 of the procedires that will be |

1 I - if you have any information that would give a more arrent bearing on how your services might affect Northestem Medical, it would be helpfil.

MS. Coopre: I db. I haven't dane the same analysis that I did in the original CON in terms of actual data around what may move. I do know, though, that there are surgeries being done at Northest by surgeans who have moved back to the area expressly because of the ASC and only because of the surgery center that are now doing cases at Nortwest and have joined the medical staff at Northwest and patients who used to be in St. Albans would have to travel to Burlington for their care are now able to get their procedres done close to home at Northest Medical center, and that the surgeans who have adted cases there would plan to continue doing cases at Northest and at the surgery center.

I also have heard, thagh I'm not sure yet, that some physicians who had plamed initially to bring cases to the surgery center and were in ar original projections are now - have said I'm nearing retirement, I den't feel like making a dange, I'm going to leave $m y$ cases where they are, and some of those cases are also at Northest.

So I dnn't know what the net amalysis is

MS. COPRR: Right.
MS. USIFR: - in your billing?
MS. Copre: Yes.
MS. USIFR: All right. Al1 my other
MS. UNEE: I have three left. I'm MR. BARBR: We're over time already.
MS. UNE: I'11 be quick.
MR. bapber: dkay.
MS. UNE: So just ane followp an condition 10. I just went to clarify that the studies that you have provided in evidence either in this submission or the previous one offer a complete list of the procedires that you will be offering?

MS. Coopre: So they are not every - it dapends on how you define procedre. These are the procedires across specialties that there is evidence basis for that I could provide to you. They are on the GT code level, if I said there's specific codes for parts of different procedires that don't have evidence based studies associated with them, so that is what happened.

MS. UNE: Thark you. Thark you, and just to clarify are there any surgeries or procedres

1 that you're anticipating will be performed that are Whatever? That may not be the appropriate clinical trem, but I think you get the gist.

MS. COFPR: Well it's interesting because who decides what's necessary. Medically necessary is a term used by commercial insurers, but, for example, a new area that is becoming much more needed certainly from the patient's perspective is gender affirmation, surgeries for folks who don't idantify with the gender that they were borm into. That is those surgeries are done by plastic surgeons. Same elements of those surgeries may be considered medically necessary. Same may be considered not cosmetic. You know it's hard to find a definition specifically of what's medically necessary versus cosmetic and What's medically needed versus not

MS. UNE: dkay, and then I know OSS in their process has certain kinds of surgeries that they will pay for in an ASC versus others they have not yet approved for that setting. Are you anticipating offering procedires that are outside of procedres or all of the procedres that will be

policies at UMMC. For example, UMMC provides two apportunities for patients with income above 400 percent fll to get financial assistance and provides an qption for a payment plan and both MMC and UMMC offer the apportunity to appeal a danial. So I'm wondering if you would carmit to bringing your policy in line with UMMC and MC prior to starting operations?
8
(Ms. Cooper) Yes and he can make those updates as wel1. They weren't intentionally left off.
10 or policy is much simpler than UMMC and Northest or
11 hospitals generally. That's the standard for anbulatory
12 surgery centers to have a simpler policy. We don't
13 require the same level of persomal financial spreadsheets
14 that are often quite diffiailt and ardurus to fill out and
15 patients of linnited means may not even know how to fill
16 out those spreadsheets which is often a barrier to
17 accessing free and discanted care.
18
19 straightforward and easy to fill out, and not to require
20 the level - assume a level of financial sophistication
21 that many patients don't have. That's also why we just
22 require a piece of substantiation, whether it be income or
23 a w-2 or samething similar rather than multiple pieces
24 like are required often by hospital policies. So we
25 certainly did not intend to leave off anything and I would

1 - if you could tell me what those updates are, we can put them into ar free discanted care policy before we resummit.
Q. Sure. That would be great. Thark you, and I just wanted to note also that in your materials I don't believe you said UMMC's complete policy so I wanted to confirm. You - did I understand you're trying to do the same policy? And I appreciate that. I just wented to confirm you did refer to UMMC's full policy when you were 10 developing your policy for the ASC?
11 A. I pulled off everything I could find on UM's web site to review.
Q. I'm wondering if you would be willing to work with our office just to ensure that these disarepancies are just a policy and eligibility information are clear and complete and readable for consumers?
A. Yes. We will make updates to the policy that have been mentioned here and then I can send it to you and have you suggest any updates which we will accept before it goes for final review.
Q. Thark you very much, and then I just wanted to also - I know your policy is in general simpler than the hospitals, but I wanted to ask if you would be willing one of the requirements for hospitals is to provide a plain langage summary, if you would be willing to also

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provide a plain langage sumary of your policy sort of summarizing the basics to be available to consumers?
A. Yes, and I would ask for your help in ensuring 4 that it is in fact plain langage, but I can take the first draft of that.
Q. Sure. I would be happy to help with that.
A. Great.
Q. And then my anly other questions are about condition 14, the applicant shall dedicate a staff member to provide patients with price estimates for surgeries, and I'm not sure if I'm - in your presentation today I wasn't quite clear, but I just wented to ask if the arrent estimates provided to patients, like when they get their detail, have their detailed conversation with your staff person, if they will incluck the possibility of complications and maybe arrange what patients normally end up paying for a procedre, whether they are median or a range?
A. (Mr. Paani) so the way it works in our surgery center ar IR will inplenent, through the clearinghouse, benefit verification process with the insurance carrier. Then it will come back and it's fairly quick and almost instant, and it tells us exactly where they are within the last 24 hours. It tells us even the deductible. So we're very transparent in an anbulatory

1 surgery center. Everybody gets actually two phone calls;
2 one from the business office explaining, we verify our
3 demogradic information with the patient, make sure they
4 understand the times involved in the procedire, and then
5 we cover everything as far as insurance. So we're going
6 to explain fully any financial doligations, any out of
7 podkets, what their $\omega$-insurance is, what their deductible
8 is, and what their co-pay is so they have a complete
9 understanding.
10
11 wish to have it. I can email it to them or I an put it
12 in regilar U.S. post office mail. So I hope that arswers
13 your question.
14 Q. I have one followp which is I thirk so part
15 of my question is about, so I thirk some of the
16 qhthalmologists would be an example, sometimes you don't
17 know what you're going to find until you're in the
18 procedre. So if patients are given information you know
19 this is the cost for what we know you're going in for, 10
20 percent of patients we find there's complication, 50
21 percent of patients we find this further complication,
22 that type of information will be shared with patients?
23
24 supplies or any additionals beyond that is included within
25 that CPT code when they draw up the bill. So there's very

1 their doice.

MS. SHW: Thark you. That's all ar questians.

MR. BAPBR: dkay. Thanks. So five minutes. we'll get a drink of water, go to the bathroom, and reconvene at 3:30.
(Recess.)
MR. BARBR: Al1 right. It's 3:30 so we're going to reconvene here. I'll tum it over to Ms. Cramer. I thirk we missed swearing in Ms. Berry Bowen so I would ask the curt reporter to please swear in Ms. Berry Bowen.
(Ms. Berry Bonen was dily snom.)
MS. CRAVR: Thark you, Midæel. I'm here representing Northwestem Medical center. As you know I also represent the vermont Association of Hospitals and Health Systerns. I just went to adnowiedge that at the prehearing conference we spoke about the parties filing briefs on the legal issue following the hearing with regard to the question of the scope of the CNN. It is briefly ar position that this CON should be amended to add any specialties beyond the five that all of the projections and financials were based on when the application was considered two years ago, and so

1 few surprises, you know, and if, for example, they fand a foreign body that required - that is going to create additional darge, that's filly explained to the patient 4 prior to the surgery usually by the physician in the 5 office. If not, it's explained to the patient in the 6 preaperative area. We require the - Medicare and 7 Medicaid is required to have a history and physical an 8 file with the patient within the last 350 days. So they 9 will review all of that information with the patient prior 10 to the procedre.
11 Q. Thark you. Did you went to - so my final 12 question is an your benefits verification policy it states
13 that if payment is not seared within 24 hours of the
14 surgery, the surgery center may dhoose to reschedile or
15 may proceed with the case. We were just wondering if you
16 would cormit to adding to that policy that patients also
17 would have the opporturity to choose to reschedile a
18 procedire rather than proceeding? Tedrical point but -
19 A. (Mr. Paani) Absolutely. Absolutely because
20 it's up - it's always the patient's doice whether they
21 went to have a procedre or not, and so we would always
22 explain to them listen I can't get your insurance. We'11
23 back out ahead of time so we have plenty of time to make
24 sure you get that information and verify the insurance.
25 So if the patient wants to reschedile, certainly it's
tochay you have received some information and testimony on the applicant's belief of a need for additional procedires, and consequently I would like to have Jill Berry Bowen crmment on potential inpact that that could have on both Nortiwestem, and I just went to adnowledge that with her today is Tristan Glanville who is the new interim cro at Northestern Medical center, and so should there be a question she might confer with him if it happened to hit the financial area.

MS. BerRy BOweN: Great. cood aftemon and thark you for the qporturity to speak to you today. The application for the Certificate of Need for the anbulatory surgery center was developed by the Green Mountain surgery center and considered by the Green Mountain care Board based on performence and projections in five idantified specialties. We are now facing a request to expand the scope of the surgery center beyond those specialties.

As one of the decision criteria within the CON process includes consideration of whether the perceived benefits of a project outweigh the detriments of the project on hospitals and other settings, it is cucial that you understand the further detrimental impact with an expansion of scope

|  | 101 |  | 103 |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| 1 | beyond what was disassed within the CoN will have. | 1 | this comes with overemd and regilation costs that |
| 2 | In recent days the Green Muntain Care | 2 | dallenge ar ability to compete. |
| 3 | Board has heard from small vermont hospitals on the | 3 | If the scope of the Green Mountain |
| 4 | sigrificant negative inpact that the loss of a | 4 | Surgery center expansion is allowed to happen, the |
| 5 | surgean or a reduction in surgical procedres has on | 5 | negative finencial impact of adtitional surgical |
| 6 | the finances of the hospital. By the way we're | 6 | procedres will show as a clear detriment in future |
| 7 | losing already two physicians to the surgery center. | 7 | reports to the Green Mountain Care Board of |
| 8 | It is real and impactiul and you have seen it in | 8 | Northestem Medical Center's performence. |
| 9 | hospitals' financial performence reports including | 9 | Thark you for the time to share this |
| 10 | ars at Northwestem Medical center. Now we face an | 10 | ortant insight on our future. we're going to |
| 11 | additional expansion of the initiative that will draw | 11 | continue to lead and work across ar local comunity |
| 12 | more surgical procedires away from hospitals that | 12 | for integration and collaboration, the accuntable |
| 13 | will be detrimental. | 13 | commurity for heplth, that foases on population |
| 14 | Nortiwestem Medical Center, as you | 14 | health transforming from a fee for service to a |
| 15 | know, is committed to the transformation of Vermont's | 15 | capitated system. Thark you. |
| 16 | health care system frim fee for service to a | 16 | MR. BARERR: Thark you. Before I tum |
| 17 | capitated population health based system. Hospitals | 17 | it over to the board for questions to the extent that |
| 18 | are finding this future. We were the first hospital | 18 | any questions may be better answered by your cro who, |
| 19 | outside of the UMM Health Netuork to take on risk | 19 | I'm sorry, I have already forgotten his name. |
| 20 | with an all payer model. In this model MC has a per | 20 | MS. BERRY BOWN: Tristan Glanville. |
| 21 | menber per month payment to sustain ar hospital, | 21 | MR. BAPBR: I would also prefer that |
| 22 | however, every time patients are drawn away to have | 22 | you also get shom in so if you coild now please |
| 23 | procedres at an outside provider such as a surgery | 23 | stand and raise your right-hand so the corrt reporter |
| 24 | center this is less reverue for the hospital wrich is | 24 | can swear you in. |
| 25 | carrying the fixed expenses necessary to care for its | 25 | (Mr. Glanvile was dily snom.) |
|  | 102 |  |  |
| 1 | comunity. Eventually the gap between variable | 1 | MR. BARBRR: Thark you. So now I'm |
| 2 | reverue and fixed expenses become unsustainable. | 2 | going to tum it over to the board for questions. |
| 3 | What is the fiture defirition of the commurity | 3 | Starting at that end of the table. |
| 4 | hospital? The surgery center is counter to the | 4 | MS. UNE: Thank you for corning. Do |
| 5 | integrated cormunity care model we are all investing | 5 | you have any information that you could provide about |
| 6 | in for the success of a capitated system. | 6 | the number or volume of surgeries that are happering |
| 7 | Northwestern Medical center has | 7 | in your hospital related to the tho specialties under |
| 8 | previously testified to the detrimental impact of eye | 8 | disassion today, the qphthalmology and plastic |
| 9 | surgeries dran off by the eye center. That same | 9 | surgery? |
| 10 | kind of detrimental impact will come with this | 10 | MS. Berry bowen: So as far as |
| 11 | anbulatory surgery center as colchester is not far | 11 | qphthalmology we did 511 cases. |
| 12 | from St. Albans. This detriment will anly be | 12 | MS. UNE: And are those the types of |
| 13 | exascerbated by an expansion of scope beyond the | 13 | procedires that were talked about today do you know? |
| 14 | specialties and procedres which were part of the cov | 14 | MS. BERRY BOWEN: The specialty |
| 15 | consideration and the Green Mountain care Board's | 15 | procedres? No. This would be more cataract |
| 16 | decision. | 16 | surgeries. |
| 17 | Today, as outlined in our previous | 17 | MS. une: dkay. |
| 18 | testimony, we are following through on ar commitment | 18 | MS. BERPY BCWEN: You know I don't have |
| 19 | to realign ar whole surgical progran to be an | 19 | the plastics that we're talking about, but it's a |
| 20 | anbulatory surgery center like in qperation. As you | 20 | very small number at this time because the plastic |
| 21 | know we are a leader in transformation and that means | 21 | surgean just joined ar medical staff. So it's not |
| 22 | intemally as well. No matter how much we do to | 22 | clear dout the number of surgeries. |
| 23 | redice cost, balancing an effort to continue to meet | 23 | MS. UNE: ${ }^{\text {deay. Thark you. That's }}$ |
| 24 | the mission of needs of or comunity such as the | 24 | al1 I have. |
| 25 | needed development in primary care and also wellness | 25 | CAIR MUTN: So I thirk just as a |



1 them before they have taken it away. I know
persomally that neighbors, friends of mine are waiting extended long lengths of time to have anything done. It's not safe for our patients, and we as nurses and any other caregivers know that every one of those patients that we take care of is samboody else's loved one, and that's very important to all of us and anly went the best for them, and opening this surgery center woild help all ar patients in our comunity to get the service they need in a timely fastrion that they need it. Thark you for listering.

MR. BAPBR: Thark you. Next up we have Kathy O'Reilly.

MS. O'Relly: Kathy O'Reilly, Director of Economic Develqument for the Town of colchester. I just wented to say that the selectboard, the Town Menager, and I support the Green Mantain surgery center. Their 25 jobs are value added jobs that we are looking for not just in colchester but in the surrounding comunities, and these jobs capled with the new employees who are corning for these opering positions is eactly what the work force investment dojective is in vermont. We need more jobs. We need value added jobs and we support this wholeheartedly.
cost of care, I happen to be ane of those peaple who believes the cost will probably be lower on average through this independent netvork than through the existing hospital nethork, but I camot believe that eight years of work of the Green Mantain Care Board and I don't thirk there's anybody in this room who can tell me how much any one of these procedres now costs in a hospital setting which to me is a very, very sad indictment of the lack of trassparency when it comes to this issue of cost.

So I guess one of the questions that I hape everybody will consider is assuming that this CON is approved and the center opens up how are you really going to determine one of the key indicators is the cost less, equal, or more of this new model unless you have more transparency that shows us what the hospitals now are darging for similar tedrriques, and the failure to do that makes health care reform seriausly endangered in my qirion.
so, in sumary, the way I interpret this debate is it's a step in the direction of creating a patient centered care system, and I hope that you will review it favorably. Tharks.

MR. BAPBR: Thark you, and this is reminding me I should have done a better job

1 Thark you. Libertoff.

MR. BAPBER: Thark you. Up next is Ken
MR. Liberiof: Yes. Ken Libertoff representing myself tocky. Clearly this is an important dabate and an important decision that the board has to make, and over the last eight years there's been a lot of conversation, partialarly with the Green Mantain care Board, before the Green Mantain Care Board, about trying to define what patient centered care would look like in vermont, and I rise today to simply say I thirk that the proposal by the Green Mantain Surgery center is a dannonstration of what patient centered care should look like I think in terms of cost, quality, and access to care. This is something that patients, consumers really need, and I hope that you will look favorably in deciding the CNN.

I do have to say a caple words, though, about cost which is an issue that I talked about before. One of the things that certainly an assumption is that the cost of ar health care system here in vermont, as well as the nation, is not sustainable, and it is trablescme to me that wrile there's correctly a lot of foas on what the possible

|  | 113 |  | 115 |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| 1 | Green Mountain Surgery Center's addition of routine | 1 | with CON Criteria was not danonstrated on a specialty |
| 2 | cataract surgery is based on absolutely no proof of | 2 | specific basis, and the CON was not approved as |
| 3 | need. I understand that showing need and avoiding | 3 | restricted to specific specialties. So that would be |
| 4 | unecessary diplication of services are key elements | 4 | our position. |
| 5 | of the state CON law. Today the Eye Surgery Center | 5 | I thirk as Ms. Cramer indicated, MMC and |
| 6 | is ruming at approximately 60 percent capacity, over | 6 | VAHS are taking the position that the ASC can only |
| 7 | more than 10 years with ample availability for | 7 | operate in the specialty areas for which projections |
| 8 | additional cases. Hearing Dr. Weissgold and Young's | 8 | were provided and that a CON amendment would be |
| 9 | testimony today I adknowledge that on rare | 9 | required to expand services into other specialties |
| 10 | coarrences there will be a need to perform cataract | 10 | such as quthalmology or plastic surgery. So I think |
| 11 | surgery in conjunction with vitreoretinal surgery. I | 11 | those are either of the two physicians' positions |
| 12 | do not apose that type of non-routine cataract | 12 | that have been advanced. I don't thirk that anyone |
| 13 | surgery. | 13 | is suggesting that the surgery center was approved |
| 14 | In summary, approving Green Mountain | 14 | with respect to the specific individul doctors who |
| 15 | Surgery Center's request to diplicate ar CON scope | 15 | would be participating and providing services. SO I |
| 16 | would not result in any savings to Vermont patients | 16 | was a little confused by the testimony about the |
| 17 | - any cost savings, exase me, to vermont patients. | 17 | surgery center might have a different impact on MC |
| 18 | That's - all Asc's are reinbursed the same. It | 18 | because different physicians are now potentially |
| 19 | wil1, however, result in umecessary diplication of | 19 | participating who might draw more patients from MMC, |
| 20 | care that's already available in an established ASC | 20 | and you know I just want to clarify that I don't |
| 21 | which specializes in eye surgeries anly. Therefore, | 21 | thirk that ACO is being asked to relitigate whether |
| 22 | I respectfilly request that the board dany Green | 22 | it can provide surgery or service in the areas with |
| 23 | Mountain Surgery Center's request to offer | 23 | respect to whid projections are provided, and a CoN |
| 24 | aphthalmology procedures that are arrently being | 24 | amendment is not required each time a different |
| 25 | performed at the Eye Surgery Center. Thank you. | 25 | doctor, you know, apts to provide services at the |
|  |  |  |  |
|  | 114 |  | 116 |
| 1 | MR. BARBER: Thark you. So that unless | 1 | surgery center, you know, in OB or in orthopedics, |
| 2 | there's anything else from the parties | 2 | for example. So - so I don't see why it would be |
| 3 | MS. TYRR: I have a caple things to | 3 | relevant to present that partidilar information that |
| 4 | clarify if you wouldh't mind. Should I go back up to | 4 | there's a different orthopedist now potentially |
| 5 | the miagohone? | 5 | participating in the center and that person might |
| 6 | MR. BAPBER: No. | 6 | draw more patients from MC. So that was one thing. |
| 7 | MS. TYRR: The first thing is that I | 7 | The secand thing was I thirk there was |
| 8 | think Ms. Cooper drring her testimony agreed to do a | 8 | an interest on the part of the board in information |
| 9 | few things that were asked of her by several menbers | 9 | from MC conceming its assessment of the impact of |
| 10 | of the board. I think it nould be nice for us to | 10 | adding ophthalmology services and plastic surgery |
| 11 | have a summary from your point of view to make sure | 11 | services, and if the board is interested in receiving |
| 12 | that we have all of them. We caught everything. So | 12 | that information from MC, the ACID, ШС was not |
| 13 | that would be helpful just to confirm what's expected | 13 | asked to provide that information from its |
| 14 | in terms of dhanging the policies and things of that | 14 | perspective and based on the information that it has |
| 15 | nature, and then I had - I had a question. I feel | 15 | regarding its participating providers and where they |
| 16 | the need I guess to clarify what the board is | 16 | arrently provide services. So we would ask to |
| 17 | considering with respect to the expansion of scope | 17 | provide that information as well based on or |
| 18 | following the disassion just at the end with MC. | 18 | understanding of what's expected. |
| 19 | So it's ar position that the CON was | 19 | MR. BARBER: So first issue I would |
| 20 | approved for a multi-specialty ASC. That's the | 20 | expect that to be addressed in the written argments |
| 21 | langage that's used in the CON and it masn't | 21 | both parties are going to be presenting. With |
| 22 | approved for specific specialties. So projections | 22 | respect to the evidence that was asked from MC if |
| 23 | were providad based on interest that had been | 23 | you have evidance that you would like to present on |
| 24 | expressed by physicians in the community at the time | 24 | that, the board would be wi11ing to accept that I |
| 25 | the application was put together, but the compliance | 25 | thirk, but I thirk if I'm understanding the |


|  | 117 |  | 119 |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| 1 | questioning correctly, the questions were around the | 1 | (Whereupon, the proceeding was |
| 2 | additional impact that the - so a number - like Ms. | 2 | adjarmed at 4 p.m.) |
| 3 | Berry Bowen said the number of projections dhanged | 3 |  |
| 4 | both in terms of new services and in terms of | 4 | CERTIFICATE |
| 5 | volumes, and getting an understanding as to what that | 5 |  |
| 6 | new effect is on MC beccuse that's the way they were | 6 |  |
| 7 | going. So - | 7 |  |
| 8 | MS. TMrR: day. I just woild ask to | 8 | I, JoAm Q. Carson, certified shorthand |
| 9 | clarify the purpose of that report, though, because I |  |  |
| 10 | want to make sure that ACID is not being asked to |  | 9 Reporter and Notary Pbblic, do hereby certify that the foregoing pages numbered 1-119 inclusive are a true |
| 11 | relitigate the permit that's already been approved. |  | 11 and acourate transcription of my stenographic notes to the |
| 12 | So ACID is not being asked to denonstrate that the | 12 | best of my ability of the proceedings in re: Application |
| 13 | permit that's already been approved still stands now | 13 | of ACID, LC before the Green Mountain Care Board held an |
| 14 | that a different doctor is providing orthopedic | 14 | April 17, 2019, at the Pavilion Auditorium, State Street, |
| 15 | services. |  | 5 Montpelier, vermont, begirning at 1 p.m. |
| 16 | MR. BARBRR: I dan't think anyone is | 16 | 6 |
| 17 | trying - that's not my understanding is we're | 7 |  |
| 18 | relitigating this CON that was issued. we're dealing | 18 |  |
| 19 | with dranges in scope and those dhanges relate to new | 19 | JoAm Q. Carson Registered Merit Reporter Certified Real Time Reporter |
| 20 | services. They also relate to dhanges in the | 20 |  |
| 21 | projections in payer mix, volume, all those sorts of | 21 |  |
| 22 | things that were drawn out in the questions and | 22 |  |
| 23 | answers that preceded this hearing. So maybe what | 23 |  |
| 24 | might be best is we have a post-hearing status | 24 |  |
| 25 | conference. It might be best that we have a post- | 25 |  |
|  |  |  |  |
|  | 118 |  |  |
| 1 | hearing status conference instead of continuing these |  |  |
| 2 | disassions in this vein. Does that make sense? |  |  |
| 3 | MS. TMRR: Sure. I'm - unfortunately |  |  |
| 4 | I'm out of town next week so if we could do it |  |  |
| 5 | trmorrow or Priday, that nould be ideal. |  |  |
| 6 | MR. BAPBER: I will send an e-mait |  |  |
| 7 | around seeing if folks are available maybe Priday. |  |  |
| 8 | MS. TMER: Sounds good. Thark you. |  |  |
| 9 | MR. BAPBER: Anything else, Ms. Oramer? |  |  |
| 10 | MS. CRAMR: No. That's fine. I think |  |  |
| 11 | a followp will be helpful. |  |  |
| 12 | MR. BAPBRR: dkay. So I think we're |  |  |
| 13 | gring to end the hearing portion of this meeting and |  |  |
| 14 | turn it back over to the chair. |  |  |
| 15 | GAIR MUTN: Is there any old business |  |  |
| 16 | to come before the board? (No verbal respanse.) |  |  |
| 17 | Seeing none is there any new business to come before |  |  |
| 18 | the board? (No verbal response.) Seeing none is |  |  |
| 19 | there a motion to adjorm? |  |  |
| 20 | MR. PEHAM: I'11 move. |  |  |
| 21 | MS. LNGE: Seconded. |  |  |
| 22 | OHIR MUTN: It's been moved and |  |  |
| 23 | seconded to adjorm. All those in favor signify by |  |  |
| 24 | saying aye? (Board menbers respond aye.) All |  |  |
| 25 | apposed? (No verbal response.) Thark you. |  |  |



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