

A public comment has been received 05/20/2024.

Name: James C Hebert , MD, FACS

Town: South Burlington

Affiliation: Emeritus Professor of Surgery, University of Vermont Larner College of Medicine

Email:

Topic: OSC Certificate of Need

Comment:

To whom It may concern:

I am writing in support of the University of Vermont Medical Center's request to build an outpatient surgical center. I spent my entire career including medical school (1973-1977), residency training (1977-1892), and as an attending surgeon and professor at the University of Vermont until I retired in 2018. I have an historical perspective and direct knowledge of the adequacy of operating and procedure rooms at the medical center. Since I started my career, finding OR time has always been an issue. Over the years, despite adding only a few new OR's the problem has grown for a variety of reasons including population growth, changes in accreditation processes, and significant changes in technology allowing minimally invasive surgery which increasingly now includes the use of robotic surgery and hybrid ORs with angiography capabilities. These technological changes have led to improved patient outcomes, less time in the hospital and quicker return to function and employment all of which decrease costs for our health care system. These newer technologies require larger ORs and reallocation of current OR space. When I retired, the problem of OR availability was at a critical level. More and more cases were delayed into the future due to lack of availability. Since I retired, my friends call me frequently for advice and a common theme has been why it takes so long to get into the OR, and can I call someone to get their case moved up. Surgical emergencies can create havoc since maintaining an emergency OR space is extremely difficult when ORs are running at full capacity.

In my opinion, the need for an outpatient surgical facility has become obvious for the past decade or longer. I believe the project proposed by UVMHC has past scrutiny from third party reviewers hired by the GMCB. It will not increase costs to patients. It will, however, decrease waiting times for patients and allow for increased access for inpatients, since outpatient procedures will not need to compete with procedures requiring inpatient care. It will also contribute to the economic health of Vermont and our community as it will strengthen our ability to provide high quality, timely patient care: an important factor for attracting and maintaining high quality industries in the area.

I strongly urge you to allow this Outpatient Surgery Center to come to fruition. It has been needed for a long time and is good for patients and our ability to provide high quality care for our community. It is the right thing to do.

I am happy to answer any questions you may have for me.

Sincerely,

James C Hebert , MD, FACS

Emeritus Professor of Surgery

University of Vermont Larner College of Medicine

Post Comment: Yes