

- 1) What corporate relationships does Brattleboro Memorial Hospital have to other organizations, if any? If possible, provide a graphic outlining the relationships.**

*BMH has one corporate relationship being part of the Southern Vermont Health Services*

- 2) Vermont's FY24 budget indicates an increase in Vermont Medicaid's RBRVS fee schedule to 110% of Medicare for primary care providers and a 3.8% inflation increase to specialty care providers. Have these increases been factored into your budget? If not, indicate what effect that would have on the submitted commercial rate increase.**

*It was not included in the budget. However, the impact to the commercial rate would be 0.1%.*

*It should be noted that legislation has been proposed to reduce the DSH allotments and CMS's proposed FY24 rule would pose a reduction to the physician rates. Should these reductions be passed, commercial rates in the future would be impacted.*

- 3) Provide the total Gross and Net patient revenue for Medicare and Medicare Advantage for FY21, FY22, FY23 (projected), and FY24 (budget).**

*Information has already been provided and may be found in the exhibit requested with our budget.*

- 4) Provide a complete response to question k.ii. in the narrative, including any third-party contracts that exist to collect payments from patients. Hospitals may reach out to the GMCB to request confidential treatment of materials that are exempt from public inspection and copying under Vermont's Public Records Act.**

- 5) On page 1 of the narrative, it reads "In addition, there was an increase in Plant Security to address safety issues in the ED, unforeseen repairs with our boiler and facilities, as well as IT expenses associated with unforeseen regulatory and cyber security needs." Elaborate on what you mean by "regulatory needs." (Narrative, 1)**

*For the narrative, regulatory needs are any requirements from regulatory agencies including but not limited to CMS, CDC, DHHS, etc. In order to pull required data, BMH has needed to request additional interfaces or reports from our Electronic Health Records. Examples have included:*

- Electronic case reporting to meet interoperability requirements*
- Support ePrescribing for Schedule II, III, IV and V controlled substances for patients with Medicare Part D.*
- Electronic submission to state database for controlled substance prescriptions*

- *Immunization data submission to public health agencies*
- *Antimicrobial Stewardship requirements*

*Projects such as these require investments in computer programming and testing which involves the use of consultative and staff costs to deliver.*

**6) Page 7 of the Narrative reads: “BMH follows federal guidelines in making reasonable efforts to determine eligibility for patients needing financial assistance before pursuing any collection activities.” Describe what you mean by “reasonable efforts.” (Narrative, 7)**

*Reasonable collection efforts include notification to the patient upon admission or date of services of its Financial Assistance Policy, written or oral communication with the patient regarding the patient’s bill, written communication included in invoices and verbal communication via telephone calls. BMH does not engage in Extraordinary Collection Actions. In addition, all information regarding our financial assistance program may be found on the BMH website.*