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For more information, please email the Board at GMCB.Board@vermont.gov

GREEN MOUNTAIN CARE BOARD CONDITIONALLY APPROVES UVMHC REQUEST TO BUILD AN OUTPATIENT SURGERY CENTER

Montpelier, Vermont - In a 3-2 decision issued today, the Green Mountain Care Board (GMCB) approved the University of Vermont Medical Center's (UVMHC) application for a Certificate of Need (CON) to develop a multi-specialty outpatient surgery center in South Burlington. This decision supports GMCB's goal to expand access to high-quality surgical care in the region.

GMCB imposed several conditions in the CON to ensure that the project aligns with Vermont's CON laws, including the following:

- To address an undue impact on the affordability of care for commercial ratepayers, the GMCB limited commercial reimbursements for cases done at the new center to 170% of the amount Medicare would reimburse for the same services.
- To address uncertainties in UVMHC's surgical demand projections, the GMCB permitted UVMHC to build six functional ORs initially, with the possibility to bring up to six additional ORs online in the future if needed.
- To limit impacts on neighboring facilities and to hold UVMHC accountable, the GMCB prohibited expenditure on any marketing or advertising of the new center and mandated reporting on wait times, provider productivity, staffing, pricing, and utilization. These conditions reflect GMCB's commitment to balancing the needs for expanded healthcare services with cost control and transparency.

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About: The Green Mountain Care Board (GMCB) is a 5-member, independent Board with a vision of a sustainable and equitable healthcare system that promotes better health outcomes for Vermonters. The GMCB was created in 2011 with an ambitious mission to drive system-wide improvements in access, affordability, and quality of healthcare to improve the health of Vermonters. Through public meetings, the GMCB ensures a transparent approach to healthcare regulation and a voice for stakeholders, including healthcare organizations, clinicians, and members of the public. With a holistic, data driven approach, the GMCB carries out its regulatory duties, supports innovation in healthcare delivery and payment reform, and serves as an important resource for independent, transparent analyses of Vermont's healthcare system performance.