

A new GMCB Public Comment has been received.

**Submit Time:** 9/13/2023

**Name:** Anne Dixon, Chair, Department of Medicine, and pulmonary-critical care physician UVMHC

**Affiliation:** UVMHC

**Town/City:** Burlington

**Topic:** Hospital Budget

**Comment:**

The UVMHC Department of Medicine provides outstanding, state of the art care to our immediate community, and also to the region. Patients come to UVMHC to get advanced care not available in Vermont's community hospitals. Our physicians are already struggling with lack of resources; if the UVMHC submitted budget is reduced, we will further jeopardize our physicians' ability to provide care to our community and patients in our region.

We are facing an unprecedented demand on our resources at this time related to the aging of the Vermont population, and the increase in the Chittenden County population. At the same time, we have seen major advances in medical care making available effective, but often complex, medical treatments -- the sort of treatments only available in an academic medical center. We are already struggling with resources to provide care to our patients, and any reduction in UVMHC's budget will reduce access to care at a time when demand has never been greater.

Not adequately funding our medical center will jeopardize our physician workforce. Nationwide there is a shortage of physicians in all specialties; physicians will simply leave if they cannot provide optimal care because of lack of funding. We train the next generation of physicians; if we compromise funding we will not be able to recruit high caliber individuals. Our training programs are a vital source of physicians to work in the state of Vermont. A cut to UVMHC's budget will jeopardize the current and future Vermont physician workforce.

Below are listed a few of the advanced treatments in pulmonary and critical care medicine that are currently available to patients in Vermont.

- Advanced diagnostic and interventional care for people with life threatening airway lesions related to lung cancer.
- State of the art care as a cystic fibrosis center.
  - The care of CF has recently been transformed with disease-modifying drugs made available through research, in which we were a major participant. This type of care is not available anywhere but at an academic medical center.
- During the COVID-19 pandemic, our center was called upon to provide advanced critical care to patients with severe COVID; patients are routinely transferred into our medical intensive care unit to receive the type of advanced care not available at a community hospital; our physicians provide 24/7 care to the sickest patients in Vermont.
- We provide advanced care options, such as endobronchial valve placement, for patients suffering from advanced emphysema; this can be a life transforming intervention, preventing patients from needing lung transplant.
- State of the art care for patients suffering from severe asthma in our region, giving them access to advanced biologics and other options not available elsewhere.
- Advanced diagnostic and medication treatment for life threatening pulmonary hypertension.
- Advanced diagnostic and medication treatment for life threatening interstitial lung disease.

**Post Comment:** Yes