

Home Health & Hospice

May 26th, 2023

Green Mountain Care Board
144 State Street Montpelier, VT 05602

RE: Reconsider and Adjust Hospital Budget Guidance

UVM Health Network – Home Health & Hospice submits this letter requesting the Board reconsider and adjust their FY2024 hospital budget guidance. As a community-based health care provider serving Vermont residents, we can attest to the challenges Vermont hospitals are facing with workforce shortages, rising costs, and increasing demand for services. This pressure is putting the stability of our acute-care system at risk. The Center for Healthcare Quality and Payment Reform recently cited that Vermont has 7 hospitals at risk of closing and among those, 3 are at immediate risk of closure¹.

Vermont hospitals must make difficult decisions given the current financial pressures that result in reducing services and available resources to the communities they serve. Hospitals are not only serving the direct, acute-care needs of Vermonters, they also play a pivotal role in our public health infrastructure supporting delivery of vaccines, addressing social determinants of health, and providing programs and services to residents to support health and wellbeing, such as nutrition education, smoking cessation, and caregiver supports.

Thank you for the difficult work you do in assessing and managing the health care costs and delivery system. Please deliver budgetary guidelines that recognizes the current situation and important role that hospitals play in our rural state.

Sincerely,



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¹ https://ruralhospitals.chqpr.org/downloads/Rural_Hospitals_at_Risk_of_Closing.pdf