

A new GMCB Public Comment has been received.

Submit Time: 10/20/2023

Name: David Schwartz, MD

Affiliation: Green Mountain Surgery Center

Town/City: Williston

Topic: UVMHN CON

Comment: Hello GMCB members,

The Green Mountain Surgery Center has saved insurance companies millions of dollars when compared to procedures performed at a hospital setting. Yet, every day I meet patients at the surgery center who were not told of this option by their UVMHN employed provider but had had to learn of this option from family and friends.

Although I cannot prove that UVM providers are penalized for referring "outside of the network" (even though there is no "network"), the electronic medical record makes it easier to refer "in house". To me, this represents restraint of trade. This not only drives up healthcare costs tremendously but also denies access to a cost effective, high value, timely option. I am confused as to why the insurance companies do not encourage the use of this ASC. Maybe they are concerned over the monopoly power of UVMHN. I know that UVMHN is dreaming of establishing their own ambulatory surgery center for more than \$100M as well certainly not save money since they will still have high facility fees and the providers will be reimbursed at a much higher rate than non-UVM providers.

UVMHN is asking for \$5M just for the Conceptual CON. Yet they are complaining that they are currently bankrupt. Why not utilize an established award winning ASC (Newsweek, America's Best ASC 2024, GMSC #3 ASC in Northeast)? Why not allow GMSC expand access to other specialties such as optho with cataracts, orthopedics, ENT? I know why; UVMHN does not want the competition. The GMCB finally has a proactive board willing to represent Vermonters and not the corporate medical model of UVMHN.

Thank you for all you do and I am finally optimistic that some progress can be made.

David Schwartz, MD

Post Comment: Yes