

A new GMCB Public Comment has been received.

Submit Time: 9/11/2024 1:12:40 PM

Name: Adam Winter

Affiliation:

Town/City: South Burlington

Topic: Hospital Budget

Comment: Hello, my name is Adam Winter and I live in South Burlington VT I want to share a story of contrasting health systems – the Canadian and our Vermont system. A couple of years ago my wife had a skiing accident at Sugarbush mountain. She was taken down to the medical clinic at the mountain. She was immediately evaluated and it was determined she needed to the hospital to be assessed and treated for potential internal injuries, The ambulance was stationed at the mountain and she was immediately whisked to CVMC. At the ER she was x-rayed and there was an unusual injury to her adrenal glands that the ER doctor had never seen before. He told my wife the findings and asked if he could consult with the trauma team at UVMHC. She consented and the ER doctor collaborated with the team at UVMHC and determined that she should be transported to UVMHC for evaluation as it was rare to only injure the adrenal gland and not injure the other organs surrounding it. She was immediately taken to UVMHC by ambulance where she was evaluated by a team of physicians who specialize in trauma. Thankfully no other organs were injured and after a brief stay in the hospital she was released. We moved to Vermont from Massachusetts and have never experienced such high quality coordinated care before. Fast forward to this summer. We were exploring the beautiful Cabot Trail in Cape Breton, Canada on our motorcycles. Towards the end of the day my wife was tiring and mishandled a curve on the trail and hit the soft shoulder of the road and fell. If not for her gear she would not have survived. She checked the internet for the nearest hospital and saw that there was one in the town we were staying in (Baddeck). The hospital was 1 ½ hour away and a kind good Samaritan from MN drove her there. I met her at the "hospital" but it was no longer a hospital. It was now a basic clinic (no ER) which closed at 4pm. My wife was going to arrive at 4:20pm – but a nurse and doctor stayed late. Oddly enough, a nurse volunteered to drive her to the nearest hospital and hour away as they said an ambulance 3-4 HOURS to arrive if it would even come. We decided to go with the nurse. Before we left a doctor at the clinic examined my wife to rule out any internal injuries and evaluate if it was safe for her to go with the nurse. We were given the ok and set off for the hospital where she was triaged and then put on the bottom of the waited list to be seen. Once they determined her injuries weren't life threatening, it took hours of her waiting in agonizing pain before she was seen. Once she was seen the care was excellent – but it was much different than in the US. The access to health care in CA is VERY limited compared to the US. Everyone complains about the cost of healthcare in Vermont and in the US as a whole. But this experience tells us is that what we pay for is access. The nurse in Canada told us of a woman who fell and broke her hip in town in the middle of winter and had to wait on the ground for nearly 4 hours for the ambulance to come (she almost froze to death waiting). We have great access to high quality and coordination between providers in the UVMHCN. Do not ruin it with the draconian cuts recommended by staff.

Respectfully, Adam Winter

Post Comment: Yes