

A new GMCB Public Comment has been received.

Submit Time: 5/26/2023

Name: Katherine Areson

Affiliation: Maitri Health Care

Town/City: Williston Vermont

Topic: Hospital Budget

Comment: I urge the GMCB stick to its originally set budget for the VAHHS and carefully consider the repercussions of continuing to increase hospital budgets. As independent practitioners we face the same financial challenges that the hospital system faces. However, we are not able to simply ask for an increase in the budget. We consistently look closely at our business model, our overhead costs and how we can efficiently provide the excellent, individualized care that we provide to Vermonters. We do this as both the business owners and the providers who provide care to our patients. We are reimbursed significantly less than what the hospital is reimbursed for doing the exact same procedures that hospital employed physicians are performing. In the last year, our insurance reimbursements have hardly budged yet the cost of health insurance has gone up for us as individuals as well as for our employees (for whom we subsidize their insurance). The increase in the cost of health insurance is directly related to the continued increase in the hospital budget. How are we to continue to run our practices in this type of landscape? There is only so much money in the health care industry in Vermont. If all of that money continues to be funneled to the hospital then many independent practices in Vermont will shut down. This is a medical crisis in Vermont. I think Vermonters deserve to have a choice of where they can get their healthcare. If you are not careful with how you approach hospital budget increases then that choice may no longer exist.

Post Comment: Yes