

A new GMCB Public Comment has been received.

Submit Time: 5/23/2023

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Affiliation: Northwestern Medical Center Board Member

Town/City: Fairfax, VT

Topic: Hospital Budget

Comment: I am very concerned that the likelihood of hospitals being able to meet the FY '24 Guidance will be too difficult. NMC is seeing inflation rates of 10-15% for things like linens, needles, contrast media for diagnostic imaging, blood and blood products, and then there is the cost of technology. Renovating old equipment rather than being able to afford to update it is less safe. Cybersecurity is more costly than ever before, and the budget does not seem to be considering the higher costs surrounding patient care. The operating margin is too low for it to drop at all, and with this budget, it will, resulting in endangering the hospitals continuity. This puts the community, MY community at risk. This budget could not only endanger and destabilize my community hospital, but put multiple Vermont hospitals in danger. Additionally, there is a need to hire and retain staff, and at a time when travelers must be utilized, hospitals must be able to adequately pay nurses... what they are worth, or the nursing shortage will worsen, and our Vermont nurses, that have multi-state licenses will be likely to flee to other better paying neighboring states, putting the public at risk and worsening the shortage in our state. NMC has always been a careful stewards of our resources and the cost of care to our community. If we cannot meet costs, then that means we will be unable to continue all services. If we are forced to limit services, this means patients incur travel costs, and hardships to go outside their community to receive adequate care. Some will not be able to do this. Their health will suffer. I ask the GMCB to adopt a budget process that allows for hospitals to build sound, responsible, and well-crafted budgets that place patients and community needs first.

Post Comment: Yes