

A public comment has been received 07/23/2024.

**Name:** Alex LeClair

**Town:**

**Affiliation:**

**Topic:** Health Insurance Rate Review

**Comment:**

All, The proposed health insurance rate increases scheduled for later this year are so inflated it makes me want to laugh and cry at the same time. This is coming from someone who works in a healthcare billing office (private practice). What UVMHC gets reimbursed for services that can be done within our existing health care community is causing most if not all of these rate increases to be proposed by the insurance companies. When UVMHC asks for and essentially gets what they want, there is very little leftover for the rest of us in the private health care sector, physical therapy in particular. I would ask the GMCB to have UVMHC present a stress test budget if they got a 0% rate increase from private health insurance companies and see what their bottom line would be with the existing 2024 commercial rates with their existing patient volume. I'm 99% positive they would still break even. If they don't meet their bottom line, identify which departments cost them the most money per patient and which ones earn them the most money per patient. I would also ask for them to provide executive salary/bonus/compensation package increase data from 2022, 2023, and 2024 if they have not done so already. It would also be helpful to include the top 25% of earners compensation increases as well. UVMHC has asked for and received higher rate increases in 2023, 2024 and are proposing even higher rate increase this year. BCBS and MVP have to offset this by increasing premiums across the board at the same rate or even higher rates to pay for UVMHC's budget. The second task I would ask the GMCB to have UVMHC present what happens to their numbers if their commercial patient volume decreases from 50% in volume to 40%. Then 30%. At some point in the near future, the yearly double digit rate increases for health insurance are going to cause more and more people to go on the state Medicaid program. Some people may even take a pay cut in order to qualify for the Medicaid program simply because they can't afford the double digit rate increases every year. It may even save them money in the long run (this would be bad for BCBS and MVP). No one in the state that I know of is getting double digit salary increases. Lastly, the proposed outpatient surgery clinic could be both a positive and a negative. It will provide shorter waiting periods for patients which would be fantastic, however, if the surgery department is one of the departments that earn UVMHC the most money per patient, it won't stop them from asking for double digit rate increases every year, especially if it means more money in their pockets. Looking at UVMHC financial statements, where is there \$130 million to spend? Is someone going to donate them \$130 Million? Or are we as Vermonters going to cover the cost over an extended period of time by having double digit health insurance premium increases every year? At the end of the day, please do what's best for the majority of Vermonters. Do not give them what they want. They will continue to walk all over us every single year if this remains the status quo. -Alex LeClair

**Post Comment:** Yes