

Submitted on Fri, 04/01/2022 - 17:34

Name

Metzi Anderson

Town/City

Stowe

Topic

Hospital Budgets

Comment

Dear Chair Mullin and Members of the Green Mountain Care Board,

As a consumer who receives healthcare coverage through my small business employer, I have witnessed firsthand the extortionate prices UVM Medical Center already charges and ask that you deny their mid-year rate increase request.

To share a personal story, this fall I had a routine exam that required lab work. My lab work was sent to UVMMC instead of Quest Diagnostics. When I received the bill, I thought there had been a mistake. What typically cost me \$180 was now costing me \$1,380. After many hours on the phone with my health insurance provider, I was told that the cost of using UVMMC was simply very high and that I should try to avoid going there in the future. This would be fine if Vermonters had other options, but because UVM functions as a regional monopoly, controlling much of the primary care and most of the specialty care for a large geographic region, I have little choice.

Therefore, I was very upset to read about UVMMC's request to increase their rates in a VT Digger article today and feel very strongly that the Green Mountain Care Board should refuse it. Please think about the everyday Vermonters like me who are so adversely affected by UVMMC's current prices. Given their reserves, it's downright greedy to try to pass their cost increases onto Vermonters. The individuals and businesses seeking health coverage are the biggest losers here. Please say no.

Thank you for your time.

Your public comment will be shared with the Board. To promote transparency, the Board sometimes posts public comments on its website. Are you okay with the Board posting your comment? If no, your comment will be sent to the Board but not posted.

Yes