

Submitted on Fri, 04/01/2022 - 12:41

Name

Oliver E. Hill

Affiliation, if applicable

RehabGYM

Town/City

Colchester

Topic

Health Insurance Rate Review

Comment

Greetings,

As an employee of a practice that offers physical therapy services as well as a chronically ill individual that relies on physical therapy for quality of life, I urge you to rethink the very nominal rate increases for physical therapy. If we are to keep small, individual physical therapy practices in business, as well as folks like myself and my colleagues in employment, rates payed to these practices NEED to be higher.

Our industry has been crushed with higher costs while payers have provided nominal increases, if any, over the last 16 years. No business can stay in business forever as costs go up while their pricing is forced to remain flat. We have even seen year-over-year price reductions forced on us by some of the payers. This is unfair to our teams of DPTs who have to pay ever growing living expenses and large student loan debts. We are not allowed to charge above contracted rates. Actually, we have no control over our pricing at all. Therefore, to be fair and competitive, we should be provided annual rate increases that at least keep up with a CPI rate. If this doesn't happen we will see independent practices close all across the State leaving patients, especially low income and impoverished patients, with the hospital system as their only choice. A system where the cost is consistently 3 to 5 times that of private providers. We need equity and fairness in our healthcare payment models in VT .

Again, I urge you to please use equity and fairness when considering rate increases. We ALL need a livable wage to survive and as it is going now we will be falling below that unless rates are increased fairly.

Thank you for your attention and care,

Oliver E. Hill

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