

Submitted on Thu, 03/31/2022 - 08:51

Name

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Town/City

Williston

Topic

Health Insurance Rate Review

Comment

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

As a consumer, I pay close attention to my health care expenses. I have been able to compare UVMMC's rates to other providers of services such as laboratory and surgical procedures (when and if available since competition seems to be thwarted by UVMMC) and the differences can be staggering. To cite a personal experience within my household, the cost of a colonoscopy at UVMMC is roughly three times that of the same procedure at Vermont Gastroenterology at the Green Mountain Surgery Center. This is only one example, but the difference is unconscionable.

Thus, it is disturbing to hear that UVMMC's is requesting an increase to their rates as of April 1st. I feel that it would be unfair to permit these increases when they are simply projecting losses and they are maintaining over a billion dollars in reserve. The hospital needs to be held accountable for adhering to their annual budget. As a consumer, I am forced to control my expenses. I am not able to go to my employer mid-year and ask for a wage increase because I cannot meet my expenses. Hospitals should not have the ability to ask these for increases either.

The rates that were established for the current fiscal year should be maintained. I am hoping that the GMCB is not considering these requests. It will set a dangerous precedent that agreed upon rates can be modified mid-year moving forward. We owe it our consumers and our employers to decline these requests.

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Yes