

27 February 2023

Dear Vermont Legislature:

We are writing to you as owners of Maitri Health Care in South Burlington which is the only remaining Obstetrical and Gynecology independent practice in Chittenden County. We hope that you can address our concerns about Medicaid reimbursements for the meticulous care that we provide to our patients.

On average, Medicaid reimburses us 30% or less of the billed value of our services which is significantly lower than any other insurer. We have included a table at the end of this document for reference. With our investment of time, staff and resources we simply end up losing money when we care for patients insured by Medicaid. Because we are a provider owned independent practice; we are not subsidized or supported by other sources of income.

Due to the current health insurance reimbursement environment, we have had to make the difficult decision that we can no longer provide elective gynecologic surgeries to Medicaid patients.

These patients will need to seek care from a hospital network that has demonstrated the ability to "cost-shift" those public insurance shortfalls by receiving inflated private insurance reimbursements.

For now we will continue to provide preventative care, emergency surgical and obstetric care services to Medicaid patients, which account for 14-15 percent of our patient population. Unsustainable reimbursements will put our ability to continue to care for those patients at risk.

Although we want to care for every person that comes to our practice, we are unable to meet our costs unless insurance companies can pay us fairly. Low payments literally jeopardize our ability to keep our doors open.

We understand that the Governor's proposed Fiscal Year 2024 Medicaid budget includes NO increase for the physician fee schedule (RBRVS or Resource Based Relative Value Scale fee schedule), which would take effect on July 1, 2023.

We urge you to increase the Medicaid RBRVS fee schedule in the Fiscal Year 2024 Budget to make up for inflation and multiple fee losses in order for us to continue to provide care to the Medicaid population.

The consumer price index, reflecting the real expenses facing our medical practice, rose 6.5 % from December 2021 to December 2022. We propose an increase in the FY24 RBRVS fee schedule in order to allow our practice to continue to provide quality care to this patient

population. We believe (and our patients agree) that we provide timely, respectful, coordinated and skilled care to our Medicaid patients such that they are reluctant to seek care elsewhere.

We trained as physicians and midwives to treat patients. We are not versed in the lobbying and negotiating involved with rate setting on either the public or private insurance markets. We bring this notice to you as a plea for your attention.

We value treating all patients, and we believe that the high quality, lower cost, independent care that we provide should be accessible to all Vermonters. Current policy in Vermont puts it at risk.

For reference; here are the fees for some of our commonly provided services as well as the Medicaid reimbursement rates.

CPT Code	GLOBAL DAYS	CPT Description	MAITRI FEES	Medicaid Vermont
56700	10	Partial hymenectomy or revision of hymenal ring	\$ 495.00	\$ 167.78
57410	0	Pelvic examination under anesthesia (other than local)	\$ 275.00	\$ 85.47
58260	90	Vaginal hysterectomy, for uterus 250 g or less;	\$ 2,190.00	\$ 685.58
58262	90	Vaginal hysterectomy, for uterus 250 g or less; with removal of tube(s), and/or ovary(s)	\$ 2,500.00	\$ 756.64
58263	90	Vaginal hysterectomy, for uterus 250 g or less; with removal of tube(s), and/or ovary(s), with repair of enterocele	\$ 3,000.00	\$ 810.58
58300	0	Insertion of intrauterine device (IUD)	\$ 185.00	\$ 94.57
58301	0	Removal of intrauterine device (IUD)	\$ 195.00	\$ 92.35

58340	0	Catheterization and introduction of saline or contrast material for saline infusion sonohysterography (SIS) or hysterosalpingography	\$ 675.00	\$ 214.76
58350	10	Chromotubation of oviduct, including materials	\$ 350.00	\$ 131.74
58545	90	Laparoscopy, surgical, myomectomy, excision; 1 to 4 intramural myomas with total weight of 250 g or less and/or removal of surface myomas	\$ 2,400.00	\$ 732.89
58555	0	Hysteroscopy, diagnostic (separate procedure)	\$ 750.00	\$ 311.86
58558	0	Hysteroscopy, surgical; with sampling (biopsy) of endometrium and/or polypectomy, with or without D & C	\$ 1,700.00	\$ 1,179.21
58561	0	Hysteroscopy, surgical; with removal of leiomyomata	\$ 1,085.00	\$ 288.02
58562	0	Hysteroscopy, surgical; with removal of impacted foreign body	\$ 750.00	\$ 368.69

58563	0	Hysteroscopy, surgical; with endometrial ablation (eg, endometrial resection, electrosurgical ablation, thermoablation)	\$ 4,000.00	\$ 1,886.11
58571	90	Laparoscopy, surgical, with total hysterectomy, for uterus 250 g or less; with removal of tube(s) and/or ovary(s)	\$ 2,225.00	\$ 740.31
58573	90	Laparoscopy, surgical, with total hysterectomy, for uterus greater than 250 g; with removal of tube(s) and/or ovary(s)	\$ 2,800.00	\$ 990.36
58660	90	Laparoscopy, surgical; with lysis of adhesions (salpingolysis, ovariolysis) (separate procedure)	\$ 1,300.00	\$ 553.23
58661	90	Laparoscopy, surgical; with removal of adnexal structures (partial or total oophorectomy and/or salpingectomy)	\$ 1,250.00	\$ 530.40
58662	90	Laparoscopy, surgical; with fulguration or excision of lesions of the ovary, pelvic viscera, or peritoneal surface by any method	\$ 1,500.00	\$ 579.10

Thank you for your time and attention.

Sincerely,

The

Partners at Maitri Healthcare

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