

MEMORANDUM

TO: Rep. William J. Lippert Jr., Chair, House Committee on Health Care
Sen. Virginia Lyons, Chair, Senate Committee on Health and Welfare
Sen. Ann Cummings, Chair, Senate Committee on Finance

FROM: Susan J. Barrett, J.D., Executive Director, Green Mountain Care Board

RE: Report on Progress regarding: Act 159 Report: Price Variation Dashboard

DATE: January 29, 2021

As required by Sec. 1. Of Act 159, GREEN MOUNTAIN CARE BOARD; PRICE TRANSPARENCY DASHBOARD; PRIVATE PAY PRICING; REPORT, The GMCB is reporting to the legislature its progress in “developing and implementing a public, interactive, Internet-based price transparency dashboard for use by health care consumers, including the results of the Board’s efforts to validate VHCURES data through comparison with hospital discharge data and with information from the health insurers and the status of the Board’s work with the various payers to incorporate location information into VHCURES data.”

I have attached a copy of the report for your review. In summary, currently as an initial step toward this price transparency dashboard, we are actively engaging stakeholders in validating our existing data sources (administrative claims and hospital discharge data) to determine how well payer financial records match those maintained by providers and payers. The goals of this step are multi-fold:

- Guidance for analysts who use GMCB’s data sets, including recommendations to account for measurement error in VHCURES financial data.
- Strategies for ongoing validation and quality assurance, as well as improving data collection (e.g. for essential data that is currently missing – such as race, ethnicity, socioeconomic status), tracking payment for self-pay transactions and uninsured populations.
- Tools and reports for ongoing validation to help improve data quality.
- Reports inform GMCB decision-making and the public, including a price variation analysis to measure differences in providers’ reimbursements for services across different settings.

A more detailed description as well as all other projects of our data and analytics team can be found in the GMCB Analytic Plan 2020-2021, at this web address:

http://gmcboard.vermont.gov/sites/gmcb/files/documents/GMCB%20Analytic%20Plan%202020-2021_Web.pdf

We appreciate your continued cooperation and assistance on this issue. Please feel free to contact me if you have any questions or concerns.

