

All Vermont Acute Care Community Hospitals

Table 7 - Cost Shift - Actual 2009

A hospital incurs costs to provide services to their patients. All patients, regardless of their ability to pay, are billed the same amount for the same service. Sometimes the payment received by the hospital is less than cost for the services provided. This includes payments from uninsured, Medicare, and Medicaid patients. When the payment doesn't cover the cost to provide those services, this unreimbursed cost is passed on to other payers; this is the "cost shift". The ability to cost shift helps the hospital recover funds it would not otherwise receive in order to maintain its financial health.

Cost Shifted by Payer Type				
Hospital	Total Payments under Cost	Medicare Payments under Cost	Medicaid Payments under Cost	Uncompensated (non-payment) Cost of Care
Brattleboro Memorial Hospital	\$11,075,869	\$6,163,697	\$2,379,002	\$2,533,171
Central Vermont Medical Center	\$15,660,618	\$7,346,595	\$3,789,588	\$4,524,435
Copley Hospital	\$5,339,397	\$398,251	\$3,485,364	\$1,455,781
Fletcher Allen Health Care	\$92,013,251	\$27,821,296	\$45,123,216	\$19,068,740
Gifford Medical Center	\$6,933,704	\$3,340,218	\$1,797,808	\$1,795,677
Grace Cottage Hospital	\$1,055,046	\$0	\$615,554	\$439,492
Mount Ascutney Hospital	\$2,642,517	\$52,052	\$1,357,203	\$1,233,263
North Country Hospital	\$10,459,814	\$3,120,672	\$5,632,592	\$1,706,550
Northeastern VT Regional Hospital	\$8,815,645	\$2,473,634	\$4,308,077	\$2,033,935
Northwestern Medical Center	\$12,098,061	\$4,939,442	\$4,523,139	\$2,635,480
Porter Medical Center	\$5,314,452	\$136,451	\$2,856,858	\$2,321,142
Rutland Regional Medical Center	\$35,482,093	\$20,485,697	\$9,423,218	\$5,573,178
Southwestern Vermont Medical Center	\$19,811,765	\$10,445,995	\$3,863,332	\$5,502,438
Springfield Hospital	\$5,686,291	\$78,977	\$2,622,806	\$2,984,509
SYSTEM	\$232,388,523	\$86,802,976	\$91,777,756	\$53,807,791

This table shows the amount of underpayments (compared to cost) by Medicare, Medicaid, and Uncompensated Care (free care and bad debt expenses). The left column shows the total of these underpayments and is the amount that is shifted to other payers. This total is the cost shift.

A zero in the above table means there is no cost shift for that particular hospital payer. Zero values in a given year are related to unique reimbursement programs for those hospitals.