

Contact: Andrea Anania

**UIHC PROPOSED RATE INCREASE FOR FY 2019**

**Action Requested:** Consider a FY 2019 hospital rate increase of 6%.

**Executive Summary:** The Board, as University of Iowa Hospitals and Clinics (UIHC) Trustees, is requested to consider a 6% rate increase at University of Iowa Hospitals and Clinics effective July 1, 2018. Board action on this proposed rate increase of 6% is scheduled at the April meeting.

**Background:** To determine the annual proposed increase in gross charges, UIHC conducts a detailed review of all charge items. Internal costs and external benchmarks are used in charge rate setting.

UIHC charges have some impact on prospective contractual rates set by payers. They also directly impact current reimbursement for payers who use percent of charge as part of their payment structure. Charge rates can impact overall payer methodology, or may just affect certain contract carve-outs and outlier payments.

Determining the overall proposed charge master increase is directly driven by two factors:

- ▶ The first factor is a comparison of UIHC's charge levels relative to its peers. UIHC charges are relatively low compared to peer institutions. In the most recently issued Vizient comparison, UIHC acuity adjusted charges are at the 29<sup>th</sup> percentile of all Midwest Academic Centers.
- ▶ The second factor is limits on charge increases in UIHC's payer contracts. Many commercial payers limit annual facility charge increases to no more than 6%.

Given UIHC's low charge levels, it would be reasonable to increase charges more than 6%. However, given the cap on charge increases in many of our contracts, we feel it is most prudent to cap the increase proposal to 6%. This is the same rate of increase the Board has approved for several prior years.