

Hennepin County Medical Center

Minneapolis, Minnesota

Hennepin County Medical Center is the only public hospital in the seven county Minneapolis metropolitan area and cares for more indigent patients than all other hospitals in Hennepin County combined. The hospital staffs 416 beds and maintains four satellite locations in low-income neighborhoods. In addition to 22,000 inpatients, HCMC averages 400,000 outpatient encounters annually, with the satellite facilities accounting for an additional 80,000 visits. The emergency department provides more than 90,000 patient visits, and operates the busiest Level 1 trauma center in the state. Medicaid accounts for 38 percent of revenue and the hospital provides \$41 million in uncompensated care annually. Hennepin County Medical Center lost over \$2 million in 2001, with significant pressures from increasing costs due to rising drug costs, HIPAA compliance, and emergency preparedness efforts.

Hennepin County Medical Center expects to lose \$8.5 million in Medicaid funding from loss of the UPL, forcing an already strained system into crisis. The hospital will be unable to invest in critical capital improvements. Reductions in clinic services will extend wait times for care in the primary care setting. Patients will be forced to use the Emergency Department as an alternative, though much more costly, site of care.

The impact at-a-glance:

- Reduced investment in capital improvements impacting regulatory compliance and patient safety
- Reduced capacity at primary care clinics increasing wait times and diverting patients to an already overburdened and more costly emergency department.

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