Ben

[**Weekly Relays User Guide**](https://ispace.utmb.edu/xythoswfs/webview/_xy-12470404_1)

**TOPICS LEGEND**

|  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| C:\Users\krhensle\Desktop\SMALL LOGO (2).jpg | | WEEKLY RELAYS | | **January 19, 2023** |
| **YOUR DEPARTMENT NEWS** | | | **UTMB NEWS** | |
|  | | | **Monthly Financial Update—Results as of December 31, 2022**  For the month of December, UTMB’s Adjusted Margin loss was $6.0 million. Year-to-date, UTMB’s Adjusted Margin loss was $26.0 million, which was $11.8 million unfavorable to planned results. UTMB, like all academic health systems, continues to face higher-than-anticipated costs due to inflation and a competitive labor market. Your continued diligent efforts are needed to manage expenses as UTMB grows operations and revenues for long-term success.  **Check out the latest UTMB Data Reference Card**  The FY22 Data Reference Card is now available online at <https://www.utmb.edu/facts/home>. Want a printed copy? Contact the Business & Finance Office at (409) 266-2000 or email [business.finance@utmb.edu](mailto:business.finance@utmb.edu).  **Subpoena scam alert**  UTMB Health has been informed of a scam targeting health care providers, and we want to be sure everyone is aware and able to react appropriately. Recently, UTMB physicians have received phone calls from someone identifying as a law enforcement officer, informing them a warrant has been issued for failure to respond to a subpoena. These calls have been determined to be fraudulent. The FBI has provided a [press release](https://nam11.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.fbi.gov%2Fcontact-us%2Ffield-offices%2Fbaltimore%2Fnews%2Fpress-releases%2Ffbi-warns-individuals-employed-in-the-healthcare-industry-of-the-ongoing-scam-involving-the-impersonation-of-law-enforcement-and-government-officials&data=05%7C01%7Ctrallyn%40utmb.edu%7Ce836bcd954234d28c3b108daf996716c%7C7bef256d85db4526a72d31aea2546852%7C0%7C0%7C638096721782163051%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJWIjoiMC4wLjAwMDAiLCJQIjoiV2luMzIiLCJBTiI6Ik1haWwiLCJXVCI6Mn0%3D%7C3000%7C%7C%7C&sdata=%2FQQqkGAMNHhygZsOHoFTfKn9hpQxhjWRSywOVya0VEw%3D&reserved=0) about this scam, which contains more details on the callers’ tactics. If you receive a similar phone call, please inform UTMB Police Inspector Stefan Happ at (409) 772-0630 or by email at [sthapp@utmb.edu](mailto:sthapp@utmb.edu), and do not take any action requested by the caller. Thanks to those who received these calls for being attentive and informing others so we can all be on alert.  **UTMB to modify patient payment policies**  Health care costs continue to rise, and so do insurance premiums. As a result, employers and insurance companies continue to increase patient financial responsibilities in order to manage the escalating costs of health insurance. The increased patient financial responsibilities result in higher copayments, coinsurance amounts and deductibles. Because of these increases, UTMB is modifying collection policies for patient financial responsibility, which will be consistent with collection practices across the health care industry. The services affected include clinic visits, elective surgical procedures and other elective procedures such as imaging, endoscopy and cardiac catheterization. All patients with financial responsibility, including those with commercial insurance or Medicare and those who are self-insured, will be expected to pay the full portion of their costs (copay, coinsurance amounts and deductibles) at the time of service or in advance of an elective procedure. These modifications will begin Feb. 1 for clinic visits, Feb. 15 for elective surgeries and March 1 for elective non-surgical procedures. | |
| OPICS  LEGEND | PATIENT CARE EDUCATION & RESEARCH INSTITUTIONAL SUPPORT CMC | | | |
| **AROUND UTMB** (Use the legend above to quickly find items of interest to your team) | | | | |
| **SAVE THE DATE**  **Town Hall set for Jan. 31**  Dr. Charles P. Mouton, president *ad interim*, executive provost and executive dean, will host a Town Hall at noon Jan. 31, in Levin Hall Auditorium on the Galveston Campus. The meeting will feature a Legislative Update, now that the Legislature is back in session, as well as conversations with leaders of two top research and education programs and a conversation about how clinical revenue provides essential support for our entire mission. The meeting will be livestreamed and recorded for later viewing for those unable to attend in person.  Check  <https://www.utmb.edu/townhall> for links to the livestream closer to meeting time. To submit questions and inquiries ahead of the meeting, visit <https://www.utmb.edu/eac/contact-us>.  **REMINDER**  **Wondr Health Spring Session**  Jump-start your year with Wondr, a digital weight loss program that is clinically proven to help you lose weight, sleep better, stress less and much more. The program’s spring session begins Feb. 6 and is available at no cost to all UT SELECT medical plan members. Visit [www.wondrhealth.com/livingwell](http://www.wondrhealth.com/livingwell) to apply and learn more. Wondr will accept applications until Jan. 22.  **IN CASE YOU MISSED IT**  **Jan. 18 Health Care Unmasked – Bariatric surgery and various treatment options**  The Jan. 18 Health Care Unmasked featured UTMB’s Dr. Sarah Samreen, director of UTMB’s metabolic and bariatric surgery, assistant professor in the division of minimally invasive surgery and co-director of the John Sealy School of Medicine’s surgery clerkship, as she discussed bariatric surgery and various treatment options for a healthier quality of life. To watch the episode on the i45Now Facebook page, visit <https://www.facebook.com/i45NOW>. | | | **PATIENT CARE**  **COVID-19 crisis pay programs expire**  With staffing needs returning to pre-pandemic levels, the decision has been made to not renew the Critical Staffing Incentive Program when it expires on Jan. 20 and to remove the COVID crisis pay from future HCSS contracts. CSIP and HCSS COVID crisis pay were started when the pandemic was increasing the need for hospital care while at the same time decimating the health care workforce. These programs fulfilled their intended purpose, allowing the Health System to meet that increased need while honoring employees’ personal sacrifices with increased pay. UTMB will continue to focus on filling vacant positions, onboarding candidates and orienting new employees. A robust schedule of hiring events is scheduled around the region over the next several weeks, with the goal of filling more than 350 positions by April 1. | |
| **DID YOU KNOW?**  In FY22, UTMB’s Health System recorded 40,458 hospital discharges; 1,568,591 outpatient encounters; and performed 17,718 outpatient surgical cases and 7,035 inpatient surgical cases at its Galveston, League City, Clear Lake and Angleton Danbury campuses and clinics. You can find additional FY22 data on the recently updated Data Reference Card, available online at <https://www.utmb.edu/facts/>. | |