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## FISCAL IMPACT REPORT

ORIGINAL DATE 02/02/10

SPONSOR Chavez, Eleanor LAST UPDATED \_\_\_\_\_ HM 33

SHORT TITLE UNM Hospitals Urgent Care Task Force SB \_\_\_\_\_

ANALYST Hanika-Ortiz

### ESTIMATED ADDITIONAL OPERATING BUDGET IMPACT (dollars in thousands)

	FY10	FY11	FY12	3 Year Total Cost	Recurring or Non-Rec	Fund Affected
<b>Total</b>		\$5.0 - \$25.0			Nonrecurring	General Fund

(Parenthesis ( ) Indicate Expenditure Decreases)

### SOURCES OF INFORMATION

LFC Files

#### Responses Received From

Department of Health (DOH)  
Health Policy Commission (HPC)

### SUMMARY

#### Synopsis of Bill

House Memorial 33 requests that DOH convene a University of New Mexico (UNM) Hospitals Urgent Care Task Force that is responsible for analyzing the:

- demographics, insurance status, and health condition of the current population of patients that UNM hospitals serve in their emergency departments;
- cost and benefits of utilizing clinics in UNM hospitals system for non-emergency, urgent care for walk-in cases; and
- potential health outcomes for individuals that currently receive health care for non-emergency cases at UNM hospitals during the evenings and weekends verses the expansion of the urgent care system for non-emergency cases.

The Task Force is requested to report its findings to the Interim Legislative Health and Human Services Committee by November 1, 2010.

### FISCAL IMPLICATIONS

There will be costs to redirect DOH and UNM staff to collect and analyze data, attend meetings and provide reports.

## **House Memorial 33 – Page 2**

The memorial provides that UNM hospitals offer one urgent care center, which charges the same fees as the emergency department.

The cost of providing health care to patients in an emergency department is significant as compared to other clinical settings.

### **SIGNIFICANT ISSUES**

The memorial provides that none of the UNM Hospitals' clinics offer evening or weekend hours for walk-in patients.

DOH notes that during the height of the H1N1 Influenza activity, the UNM Hospitals system activated their pandemic influenza plan and quickly responded with efforts to triage flu patients away from the ER to a separate clinic site. This effort likely prevented additional exposure and illness. This overflow clinic site has continued to provide urgent care.

DOH further notes that various UNM clinics have expanded their evening and weekend hours. In the Albuquerque area, UNM health providers and non-UNM providers recognize the need for extended hours of available non-emergent health care. However, finding workable solutions has been a challenge.

### **PERFORMANCE IMPLICATIONS**

Patient concerns were documented in the 2005 report, "Study of Access to Health Care Services in the Southeast Heights".

### **ADMINISTRATIVE IMPLICATIONS**

The Task Force activities required for HM 33 would be added to the existing workload of DOH and UNM staff.

### **OTHER SUBSTANTIVE ISSUES**

HPC notes that UNM hospitals serve a disproportionate number of Albuquerque's and other parts of the State's uninsured and underinsured population. The emergency room is the only option for this population to receive care for non-emergency situations during the evenings and weekends.

### **WHAT WILL BE THE CONSEQUENCES OF NOT ENACTING THIS BILL**

The potential for increasing access to urgent care services at the UNM hospital system would not be studied pursuant to HM 33.

AHO/svb