

Public Comments

The [Health Care Market Oversight](#) (HCMO) program reviews proposed health care business deals to make sure they support Oregon's goals of health equity, lower costs, increased access, and better care. This document presents public comments related to the HCMO review of 014 United Health Group-Amedisys. OHA accepted public comments during the comprehensive review period. Public comments were received via email to hcmo.info@oha.oregon.gov, voicemail, or by filling out the [Public Comment Form](#). Comments are presented below in the order received and may include typos or misspellings. Personal contact information for individuals has been removed.

OHA expresses no views on the substance of these comments, and their publication does not constitute an endorsement by OHA of the views expressed.

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1. Subject: Amedisys, 12/18/23

Does antitrust mean nothing anymore?

Just blatantly spitting in our faces now.

2. Subject: Comment on the acquisition of Amedisys by Optum/United Health Care, 05/28/2024

Public Comment in Opposition to the Amedisys Acquisition by OPTUM/UHG

It is important that HCMO upholds the State Constitution which affirms affordable health care as a human right as well as the statutory directives and deny this proposed Amedisys application. Many families in Linn, Benton and Marion counties will be impacted negatively if the proposed Amedisys acquisition of nursing homes and

hospice centers in these counties is approved. Federal antitrust regulators are currently reviewing this transaction on a national level. This transaction should not move forward pending the outcome of that investigation.

UHG/Optum acquired the Oregon Medical Group in Eugene in 2022. Providers have left the practice in large enough numbers that patients have been told to seek care elsewhere. This is unacceptable and therefore no transactions involving UHG/Optum in Oregon should be approved. Access to appropriate care is fundamental and critical.

The Corvallis Clinic was recently acquired by Optum. We are concerned that UHG as an insurer, and through Optum as a clinical provider and potentially as a home health and hospice provider, have the incentive and the ability to unfairly disadvantage competing providers and drive them from the market, reducing consumer choice. If this transaction is approved will the clinic doctors be referring patients to the former Amedisys services to the exclusion of other service providers in the area?

Mid Valley Health Care Advocates is a 501(c)(3) organization based in Corvallis, Oregon. We urge you to deny this acquisition application.

Mid Valley Health Care Advocates Board by:

3. Subject: NO more purchases by the United Health Care Group, 05/29/2024

Please do not allow any more purchases by the United Health Care group as well as all of their divisions. Their record of care for patients is terrible. Their main concern is always profit over care for people. This giant corporation must not buy out any more health care companies.

4. Subject: No on Amedisys, 05/30/2024

United Health Group has proven itself to be harmful to patients and providers in Oregon and across the world.

Evidence of UHG disregard for human life and well being is chronicled in the "Insatiable Beast" article in the New York Times in November, 2022. UHG acquired the Oregon Medical Group in Eugene in 2020, the Portland Greenfield Clinic in 2020, and the Corvallis Clinic in 2024. One third of the OMG doctors fled within a year. The

reason for the mass exodus is thought to be moral injury and fatigue. The OMG last month sent letters to thousands of patients that their doctor was no longer available.

I fear the UHG will treat nursing homes as badly as they do doctors. UHG is likely to cut corners to save profits, understaff and create avoidable deaths and injuries.

Please vote no on the UHG/Amedisys proposal.

5. Subject: Have We Not Learned?, 6/5/2024

To whom it may concern,

United is violating antitrust laws and is in the process of forming a monopoly at the expense of patients' care. UnitedHealth is currently under investigation by the DOJ for antitrust violations. I hope OHA has learned their lesson after witnessing what is going on at Oregon Medical Group (I guess you have not since you allowed the acquisition of Corvallis Clinic) - provider turnover, lack of PCP care; lack of care in general - UnitedHealth Group, Optum, Change Healthcare are monetizing our health at the expense of patient care and are the epitome of profit over people! United is "too big to fail", however, insurance carriers and patients still do not know the impact of the Change Healthcare disruption, nor who was impacted and what information was leaked... there is no transparency because United truly does not care. Corvallis Clinic will be next, and the citizens in the three county footprint will suffer through lack of care, in just the same way people of Eugene are currently struggling with getting kicked out of Oregon Medical Group due to lack of providers. Do your job, OHA, and do not let this deal with Amedisys go through. Patient care should be our top priority, and YOU have the power to stop this disgusting practice United Health is exhibiting.

Thank you!

6. Amedysis, 6/6/2024

I am writing in opposition to the proposed acquisition of Amedysis by United Healthcare/Optum. United Healthcare is the largest health insurer in the nation and through its subsidiaries (Optum) employs 90,000 physicians. If they enter the home health and hospice market in Oregon, and particularly the mid-Willamette Valley where I live, there is every possibility that they will drive other small providers out of the market. Competition will decrease, and prices will increase. This has the pattern resulting from the growth of Optum in other states. The acquisition of the Oregon

Medical Group by Optum has resulted in thousands of patients losing providers and access to care. The statistics and incidents cited by staff in the rationale for a comprehensive review are the reasons to deny this application. Please deny this application.

7. Amedisys comment, 6/6/2024

Because I know that my voice on health policy decisions in Oregon is crucial, I need to speak out. Optum is at it again, this time to acquire a long term care facility, Amedisys. The proposal is currently under comprehensive review with HCMO and they are accepting public comments. So I'm submitting a public comment. Instructions were to include the word "Amedisys" in my comment and sharing my comment. This kind of acquisition by Optum (or any group like them) will reduce the quality and care of any medical facility including a long term care facility. Allowing this to take place will only lower the quality of our healthcare system. Corporations have no business running medical entities of any kind and allowing this to happen (as it's been happening over and over again for some time now) will only make medical care even more about revenues and less about patient care than it is now (if that's even possible). Medical care should never be managed by corporations. That's why the quality of our healthcare is so dismal as it is now. Please don't let this happen!!

8. Amedisys, 6/10/2024

Regarding Amedisys, I was a home health nurse for them somewhere around 2014. They treated employees poorly, often shorting them on mileage reimbursement, and there was constant time pressure. In a growing metropolitan area, it is difficult to get from one client to another, complete an assessment or start of care, and do the proper documentation in the allocated time. Consequently, practitioners had to do one of three actions: 1) Not really do proper documentation, 2) work overtime and have the manager call them in to discuss the overtime, or 3) work off the clock to complete documentation on time.

It is difficult to imagine that United Health will make any material difference in these practices, since they have their own poor reputation. If the oversight of these companies is truly on the table, take a look at their profits-at-all-costs mentality and behavior, and see if there is any way you can put some teeth into the regulation.

9. No on Amedisys/Optum merger, 7/14/2024

Please vote No on Amedisys.

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I fear the UHG will treat nursing homes as badly as they do doctors. UHG is likely to cut corners to save profits, understaff and create avoidable deaths and injuries.

Please vote no on the UHG/Amedisys proposal.

10. Amedisys Comment, 7/30/2024

HCMO's preliminary review of the proposed United-Amedisys transaction finds that the post-acquisition HHI concentration ratio for home health services in the Portland, Salem, and Roseburg service areas would exceed 1900, the lower boundary of the highly concentrated market category (under the 2023 FTC-DOJ Merger Guidelines). Further, that the incremental addition to concentration is greater than 100 points.

I would also note that this home health services acquisition would be the second one involving United in the defined PSAs, the previous one involving LHC. Serial acquisitions, as you know, are a special concern identified in the Federal Merger Guidelines.

Your Analytic Framework states that any acquisition falling into the high concentration category calls for a Comprehensive Review. Accordingly, I recommend that HCMO notify United and Amedisys that their proposed transaction will be subject to Comprehensive Review. I would also recommend that your follow-up review of the LHC acquisition (in progress) be integrated with a Comprehensive Review of the Amedisys transaction since they are interrelated.

11. Amedisys, 11/15/2024

The U.S. Department of Justice and Attorneys General in NY, NJ, IL, and MD filed suit on November 13, 2024 to block the acquisition of Amedisys by UnitedHealth challenging the anticompetitive impact of the transactions.

<https://www.justice.gov/opa/media/1376671/dl> The facts and issues in these cases parallel those found here in Oregon.

In the event the final outcome of the OHA/HCMO Comprehensive Review is inconsistent with the approach reflected in the DoJ and State Complaints, the OHA—at a very minimum-- should analyze and explain the differences in its Final Determination and Report. In the alternative, OHA/HCMO should stay the final determination until the DoJ and State case has been resolved.

Larry Kirsch

Portland

12. RE: Amedisys, 12/17/24

According to sources, Amedisys Inc. and UnitedHealth Group Inc. are apparently also under investigation by the SEC.

OHA must halt any proposed merger until the SEC concludes their investigation and the DOJ concludes its lawsuit.

About HCMO

The Healthcare Market Oversight Program reviews proposed health care business deals to make sure they support statewide goals related to cost, equity, access, and quality. For more info, you can connect with HCMO staff:

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