

The Truth Regarding Our Negotiation With Wellstar

As a partner committed to ensuring our members have access to quality and affordable health care, it's important you know the truth. Because Wellstar continues to flood the market with misinformation, we believe it's important to set some facts straight.

Wellstar's hospitals are already the most expensive in Atlanta, yet the health system continues to maintain its demands for an egregious 40% price hike.

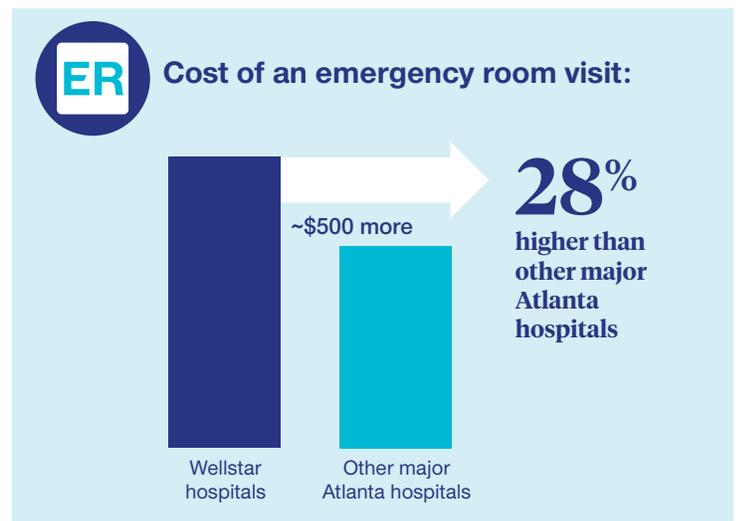
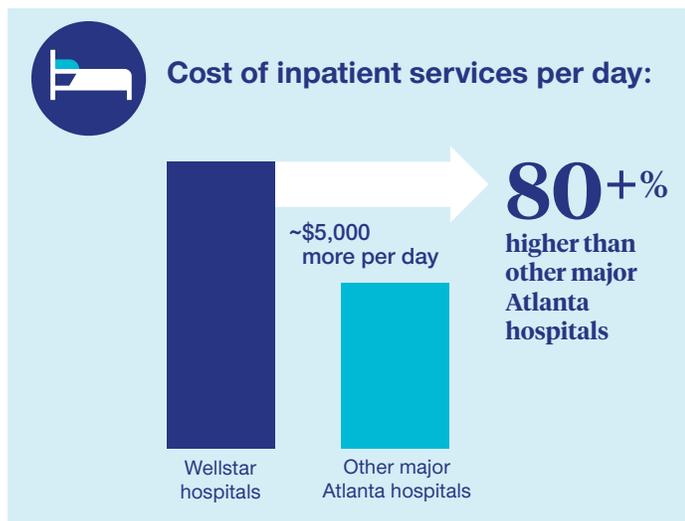


Agreeing to Wellstar's proposal would make its hospitals significantly higher cost than the average of all other major hospitals in Atlanta over the next three years. Wellstar seems to believe it's entitled to be paid significantly more than its peers, yet only one of Wellstar's 11 hospitals is ranked in [U.S. News & World Report's rankings of the best hospitals in Georgia](#). Northside, Emory and Piedmont each have three or more hospitals ranked as best hospitals in the state.

Health care costs would be reduced by approximately \$80 million in 2022 alone if our members received care at other major Atlanta hospitals instead of Wellstar.

If we agreed to Wellstar's price hike demands – but our members were to receive care at other Atlanta hospitals instead of Wellstar – it would conservatively result in approximately \$80 million in reduced health care costs in 2022.

Wellstar's proposal includes a 37% price hike in the first year of our contract specifically for inpatient services. Agreeing to Wellstar's demands would make the cost of inpatient services 80% higher than the average cost at other major Atlanta hospitals providing similar services in just one year. The cost for an emergency room visit at one of Wellstar's hospitals would be nearly 30% higher than the average of other major hospitals in our network in Atlanta.



We did not end our contract with Wellstar. We renewed our hospital contract with Wellstar in the summer of 2020. Less than nine months later, Wellstar issued a notice to end our contract unless we agreed to a 40% price hike for its hospitals, which is not affordable for Georgia residents and employers.