

June 1, 2010

To members of the professional staff:

Children's Hospitals and Clinics of Minnesota has been notified by the Minnesota Nurses Association (MNA) union of their intent to strike beginning at 7 a.m. Thursday, June 10 and ending at 7 a.m. on Friday, June 11.

Contingency plan

Children's is committed to reaching an agreement with MNA prior to June 10, and we must also be ready to ensure safe, high-quality care for our patients in the event of a nursing strike. We have a detailed contingency plan in place by which we will continue to provide safe, high-quality care to patients and their families. This contingency plan was designed in collaboration with medical directors, professional staff leadership, patient care managers and support staff.

We have carefully developed our staffing plan, including the addition of replacement registered nurses--who are experienced, well prepared, and specially trained and have undergone a detailed and thorough orientation to Children's. And as always, we will adhere to our standard of 24-hour on-site coverage by intensivists, neonatologists, ED physicians and hospitalists.

Hospital services

We intend to modify operations with daily evaluations and adjustments as needed. Our goal is to minimize disruption for patients and their families and professional staff. Throughout the day, a clinical team will assess scheduling, bed capacity, and patient flow. This team will include assigned chief medical and surgical officers, administrator, and patient care director.

- Patients may need to be transferred between campuses and/or to other hospitals to best meet their needs.
- Emergency services at Children's - Minneapolis and Children's - St. Paul will remain operational.
- The surgical schedule will be emergent cases only on the Minneapolis and St. Paul campuses.

Outpatient services

Ambulatory clinics at Children's - Minneapolis and Children's - St. Paul, including specialty clinics, will remain open.

Children's - Minnetonka is non-contract site and will be fully open for outpatient surgery. Services at Children's - Minnetonka, Children's - Roseville, and Children's - Woodwinds and Children's - Maple Grove will continue to function at full capacity.

Admitting a patient

Please call in advance before sending a patient to the hospital for admission.

Children's Physician Access, (Twin Cities metro area: 612-343-2121 or toll free: 866-755-2121) will be fully staffed to assist with admissions, consultations and other connections.

As always, Children's will serve as a resource for finding inpatient services elsewhere if we do not have a bed available.

Information for families

Please help us reassure children and their families that they are our top priority. We have set up a telephone hotline for more information. That number is 612-813-2022; it is available 24 hours. In addition, families can visit our website at www.childrensmn.org

For additional information or to address specific questions, please feel free to call either of us.

Sincerely,



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