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Statement of the Health Professionals and Allied Employees in response to HUMC Merger in Hudson County

Healthcare workers maintain union rights in merger with Hackensack Health System

Under the merger of Palisades Medical Center and Harborage nursing home with the Hackensack University Health Network, unionized nurses and health care workers maintained their union membership, contract, and rights. The 900 nurses and healthcare workers are represented by New Jersey's largest health care union, the Health Professionals and Allied Employees (HPAE).

"As a union of healthcare professionals we view this merger as an important opportunity to improve and expand services for our community, and to focus on excellence," said Michelle Burlington, President of HPAE Local 5030 at HackensackUMC Palisades. Our union contract has enabled us to recruit and retain qualified staff, and it was essential to us that the merger acknowledge our workplace rights, safe staffing, job security and a voice in patient care."

"As health care changes and a growing number of for-profit health systems move into Hudson County, we believe this merger will better enable our hospital and nursing home to continue to provide needed services, for many more years," said Sandra White, Acting President HPAE Local 5097 at HackensackUMC Harborage.

The union did say that they would continue to monitor and advocate for continued levels of charity care to the community, estimated at \$7.8 million in 2016.

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