

Daily Media Briefing

Status of Strike Preparations

Wednesday, April 25, 2012

Status of Preparations

- Our focus remains on ensuring we can provide safe patient care, under these uncertain conditions.
- The NSGEU controls the decision regarding the timing of a strike.
- Up until 7:30 p.m. Tuesday, the information we had from union was:
 - An intent to strike as of 12:01 a.m. April 25
 - Picketing would start at 6 a.m. April 25
- We continue to operate under the threat of a strike, now scheduled for 7 a.m. April 26.

Status of Preparations (cont'd)

- Our patients' needs are front and centre as we work to minimize impact on them.
- Originally, we were providing 48 hours' notice of cancellations – as of today, we will provide 24 hours.
- At this point we are not postponing scheduled appointments for Friday. We will review this decision as we receive information from mediation today.

Status of Preparations (cont.)

- We must maintain our inpatient beds at a stable level and keep the approximately 172 beds closed.
- All emergency and urgent cases are proceeding.
- We have tried to increase some activity today – as long as it did not require hospitalization.
- Outpatient clinics are open today.
- Diagnostic imaging and labs continue to operate as normal. This includes blood collections.

Clinical Service Impacts: Wednesday, April 25

- **Surgeries:**
 - Approximately 430 surgeries postponed as of today.
 - Each day an additional 130-150 non-urgent elective surgeries that require hospitalization will need to be postponed.
- **Diagnostic Imaging:**
 - 530 appointments postponed.
 - Clerks began calling patients last night and early this morning to see if patients could make their previously scheduled appointments.
 - We have contacted 50% of today's patients – those who did not require any special preparation.
 - Walk-in appointments are being seen today.
 - In the event of a strike, approximately 100 appointments would be cancelled each day.

Clinical Service Impacts: Wednesday, April 25

- **Labs and blood collections:**
 - No changes today.
- **Outpatient clinics:**
 - To date, about 1,947 outpatient appointments postponed.
 - For today, staff have been working to contact as many patients as possible today to see if they could make their previously scheduled appointments.
 - Number of outpatients appointments scheduled each day is about 2,240.
- **Inpatient beds:**
 - 172 beds remain closed

What Patients and Clients Need to Know

- The situation is evolving and we recognize it can be very confusing for the public.
- If your appointment or procedure has been postponed, we ask that you wait to hear from us.
- If the union further delays a strike, we will continue to offer lab, blood collection and diagnostic services, and patients can use the walk-in services as they would normally.
- If there is a strike, only urgent blood testing that is required for ongoing treatment will continue; only the blood collection clinics within the hospitals will be open.

What Patients and Clients Need to Know

- As always, if you require urgent care, you should check with your family physician or 811.
- Our emergency departments remain open and fully staffed.
- If you're unsure whether you need emergency care, come to the emergency department or call 911

What Patients and Clients Need to Know

Updated information:

www.cdha.nshealth.ca or

call 1-855-473-2700

Questions?