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**Statement in Response to MNA Strike Notice
May 10, 2013**

As of 11 am on Friday, May 10, UMass Memorial Medical Center has not received an official 10-day strike notice; however, in response to the Massachusetts Nurses Association's press release, we offer the following:

The Massachusetts Nurses Association's (MNA) decision to strike is highly disappointing, ignores our willingness to continue good faith negotiations, and casts aside the substantive proposals we have put on the table to address specific concerns. In addition to the many concessions we have made over the past months, our newest proposals would add a significant number of nurses at an annual cost of approximately \$10.8 million to the Emergency Department, Maternity, NICU and the night shift, as well as provide for reduced or no patient assignments for charge nurses. The MNA has not put forward a single alternative suggestion.

The strike decision also forces our nurses to make some very important decisions in the coming days. That's because the MNA is falsely leading our nurses to believe this is only a one-day strike – that it isn't a big deal, and is primarily symbolic. It is not. Any time a nurse leaves his or her patients it is real and serious.

During the strike we will need to bring in replacement nurses to care for patients. We have contracted with one of the nation's most reputable nurse staffing agencies to provide qualified replacements. In order to secure a sufficient number of nurses to provide safe patient care, we are contractually committed to keeping the replacement nurses for five days.

We want to emphasize that the excellent quality of care that patients have come to expect from the Medical Center will continue without interruption no matter what if the Medical Center is unable to reach an agreement with the MNA between now and May 23. Our replacement nurses have significant experience treating patients in a variety of settings, including hospitals like the Medical Center. We anticipate that the rest of the Medical Center's employees will be on hand to provide the same excellent quality of care that the Medical Center is known for.

In the interim, the Medical Center remains committed to negotiating with the MNA to avert a strike by reaching a mutually acceptable contract that balances the needs of our community and our patients while acknowledging the critical role our nurses play in caring for our patients.