

Robert Wood Johnson University Hospital – United Steel Workers Strike Update

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- The work accomplished at RWJUH this morning to onboard more than 500 replacement nurses was tremendous. All of the planning and training paid off as the new nurses came onto the units and patients experienced seamless care. The full transition was completed by 7:40 AM. It is anticipated that an additional 300 more nurses will be onboarded this evening.
- Patients have been very complimentary, as were the hospitalists and physician teams.
- **We are open for business.** Patient volumes in the Emergency Department are at manageable levels and procedural areas running on schedule. The Epic “at the elbow” support teams were flowing through the units, effectively supporting the agency nurses in addition to the virtual Epic and IT command centers.
- Operational highlights for today include:
 - 7 Babies delivered
 - 25 Endoscopic procedures
 - 22 Adult and 9 Pediatric surgeries
 - 9 Cardiac catheterizations and complex cardiac ablations
 - 25 Interventional Radiology cases
- As anticipated, representatives from the NJ Department of Health are also now onsite for standard strike monitoring, and no concerns were noted. We welcome their presence, which will continue for the duration of the labor action.
- As expected, the picket line was invigorated by the walk-out and the first day of their demonstrations. The noise levels were frustrating for patients with rooms facing Somerset Street. New Brunswick Police helped mitigate this as much as possible and comfort kits were distributed by our patient experience teams, who rounded frequently.
- We extend our deepest thanks to the entire team at RWJUH for their hard work and efforts during this strike.