



Press Release

For Immediate Release

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University of Illinois Medical Center Nurses Ratify Contract- Nursing Issues and Patient Care Take Top Priority

CHICAGO, IL- Focusing on improving nursing practice and patient care, the Illinois Nurses Association (INA), together with the nurses at the University of Illinois Medical Center at Chicago (UIC), ratified a contract meeting these critical needs. “The contract further supports the fact that nurses here want what’s best for their patients. We want to be able to deliver exceptional care. By having this contract we have achieved this goal,” said Abass Wane, Staff Specialist for INA.

UIC nurses will receive significant financial increases over the term of the contract, but as negotiations began it was obvious the nurses were fighting for their patients first. “I am proud of the contract, it serves the nurses and patients well. I knew from the start the nurses came in ready to fight for their patients’ rights, and through this contract language, they achieved their purpose,” said Elwood R. Thompson, Program Director at INA.

The continuation of the staffing by patient acuity plan, will allow the nurses at the bedside to have a voice in what they need to best care for the patients. This plan takes into consideration the complexity of care a patient may need due to illness, complications or treatments, and alters staffing levels to meet the needs of the patient. “Our nurses have a voice in staffing assignments, it is an important step. We started this language within the UIC contract long before the law was passed last year,” Wane added.

Nurse Staffing by Patient Acuity passed into law last year and provides the basis for which hospitals can create a staffing team including bedside nurses to decide the best way to determine a patient’s actual acuity. “Every patient is different, their needs are different and they require an individualized plan of care. I believe this contract benefits the nurses by providing them financial increases, while also giving them the opportunity to deliver the best care possible. Everyone won in this situation,” said Thompson.

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The Illinois Nurses Association (INA), a constituent member of the American Nurses Association, and is the largest professional nursing organization in Illinois. INA is dedicated to advancing the nursing profession by fostering high standards of nursing practice, promoting the economic and general welfare of nurses in the workplace, projecting a positive and realistic view of nursing, and by lobbying the legislature and regulatory agencies on healthcare issues affecting nurses and the public.