



MEDIA ADVISORY

Monday, July 15, 2024

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Patient Services and Hospital Jobs Are Being Cut to the Bone at Suburban Community Hospital In Montgomery County. Nurses And Elected Officials Are Speaking Out.

PRESS CONFERENCE SLATED FOR NOON ON WEDNESDAY, JULY 17TH, OUTSIDE THE HOSPITAL

NURSES SAY: Prime Healthcare's Changes to the Hospital, Effective Tuesday, Have Led to Massive Layoffs and the Shutting Down of Basic Medical Services That Medically Vulnerable Norristown-Based Families Have Relied On For Decades; Delays in Patient Care Loom

Plymouth Meeting, PA – Nurses at Suburban Community Hospital in East Norriton, Montgomery County will be joined by local elected officials at a press conference at **12 PM on Wednesday, July 17**, to call attention to hospital owner Prime Healthcare's drastic cuts to services and staff. Many longtime hospital workers will work their last days at Suburban on Tuesday, July 16th, as Prime transforms the 80-year-old hospital from a full-fledged critical care facility to a micro-hospital.



Prime is discontinuing all surgical services and closing the ICU. Only the Emergency Department and a tiny Medical Unit will remain open. ER patients in need of surgical or ICU care will be forced to rely on transfer agreements, which have not been provided to the staff or public, that can take several hours,

endangering patients’ lives. With little time to prepare, neighboring hospitals will be forced to absorb the overflow.

“When a patient in the ER needs immediate surgery, minutes and seconds can mean the difference between life and death,” says Emergency Department nurse Octavia Rumer, RN, co-president of the Suburban General Nurses Association. “Transferring critically ill patients from one hospital to another, will affect outcomes and it will endanger lives.”

“This isn’t ‘Saving Hospitals,’” says Suburban General Nurses Association Co-President Terena Stinson, RN, a longtime Suburban Emergency Department nurse, in a reference to Prime Healthcare’s motto, “Saving Hospitals, Saving Jobs, Saving Lives”. “Going from a full-service hospital down to just an ER with a few patient beds in 8 short years [Prime bought Suburban in 2016] is NOT saving a hospital. It’s effectively closing an 80-year-old institution in a medically needy area, killing healthcare jobs in Montgomery County, and endangering lives.”

Prime Healthcare is the frequently sued, for-profit owner of three hospitals in the greater Philadelphia area – Suburban Community Hospital in Norristown, Lower Bucks Hospital in Bristol, and Roxborough Memorial Hospital.

PRESS CONFERENCE

WEDNESDAY, JULY 17, 2024

WHO	RNs who work at Suburban Community Hospital
WHAT	Prime Healthcare, the California-based, for-profit owner of three hospitals in the Philadelphia area, is discontinuing all surgical services and closing the ICU at Suburban Community Hospital. They want ER patients in need of surgical or ICU care to rely on vague transfer agreements, which can routinely take several hours, endangering patients’ lives. Longtime Suburban healthcare professionals are slated to lose their jobs and the basic medical services provided at Suburban – the services medically vulnerable Norristown-based families have relied on for decades – will cease. RNs are speaking out.
WHEN	WEDNESDAY, JULY 17TH AT NOON SUBURBAN NURSES AND ELECTED OFFICIALS WILL SPEAK OUT
WHERE	Outside Suburban Community Hospital, 2701 Dekalb Pike, Norristown, PA 19401

The Suburban General Nurses Association is an affiliate of PASNAP, the Pennsylvania Association of Staff Nurses and Allied Professionals, which represents more than 11,000 frontline nurses and healthcare professionals across Pennsylvania and was founded on the belief that patients do better when critical care staff have a voice to advocate for their patients and themselves.