

# The **TRUTH** About Strike Replacement Nurses

Brigham and Women's Hospital and Partners HealthCare have pledged *"to ensure the delivery of the best care to our patients"* if the hospital fails to offer a fair contract and 3,300 Brigham nurses hold a one-day strike on June 27. The hospital has said they plan to lock out nurses for four days after the strike and hire nurses from U.S. Nursing Corp., a travel agency based in Colorado. This is very concerning to Brigham nurses, who are highly specialized experts in the care they provide.



*"Hospitals functioning during nurses' strikes do so at a lower quality of patient care... Hiring replacement workers apparently does not help: hospitals that hired replacement workers performed no better during strikes than those that did not hire substitute employees. In each case, patients with conditions that required intensive nursing were more likely to fare worse in the presence of nurses' strikes."*<sup>1</sup>



W O R C E S T E R

## TELEGRAM & GAZETTE

May 2, 2000

### Care-Related Lapses Prompt Firing of 3 Temp Nurses/State Cites 2 Incidents

As a federal mediator asked both sides in the 33-day-old Worcester Medical Center strike to return to the bargaining table, the state Department of Public Health reported that three replacement nurses hired by Tenet Healthcare Corp. have been fired.

According to DPH reports released yesterday on conditions at the Tenet-owned medical center, two of the nurses -- part of a contingent of 125 brought in by Tenet from Denver-based U.S. Nursing Corp. -- were terminated after leaving a surgical patient unattended last Tuesday in a post-operative recovery room.

The third nurse was fired after delivering a newborn to the wrong mother for nursing. That incident took place Friday, according to the report.<sup>2</sup>

## San Francisco Chronicle

Sept. 26, 2011

### Replacement nurse's error: supplement in wrong tube

The cancer patient who died because of a medical error at Oakland's Alta Bates Summit Medical Center was killed by a nutritional supplement that a replacement nurse mistakenly put into a catheter meant for delivering medicine to her bloodstream, The Chronicle has learned.

.... The woman was one of about 500 replacement nurses brought in by Sutter Health to staff its Oakland hospital and two Berkeley campuses when the California Nurses Association called a one-day strike for Thursday. Sutter kept its replacements for five days, locking out its regular nurses until today.<sup>3</sup>

W O R C E S T E R

## TELEGRAM & GAZETTE

May 3, 2000

### Galvin Asks if Licensing Was Rushed/Replacement Nurses' Approval Questioned

"Unfortunately, it appears that in their reckless effort to assist Tenet Healthcare Corp. import strike-breaking nurses, the Board of Registration in Nursing has put at risk the health of our citizens." – Secretary of the Commonwealth William Galvin<sup>4</sup>

1. Do Strikes Kill? Evidence from New York State (National Bureau of Economic Research Working Paper No. 15855)

2. Worcester Telegram & Gazette, "Care-Related Lapses Prompt Firing of 3 Temp Nurses/State Cites 2 Incidents" May 2, 2000, Telegram archives

3. San Francisco Chronicle, "Replacement nurse's error: supplement in wrong tube" Sept. 26, 2011, <http://www.sfgate.com/bayarea/matier-ross/article/Replacement-nurse-s-error-supplement-in-wrong-2307972.php>

4. Worcester Telegram & Gazette, "Galvin Asks if Licensing Was Rushed/Replacement Nurses' Approval Questioned" May 3, 2000, Telegram archives