

To our patients,

In recent weeks, the media have been reporting extensively on Jackson Health System's financial challenges. Given our long-standing relationship with Jackson, you may be wondering if this situation is affecting the care provided at Jackson by your University of Miami physician.

The answer is no. Whatever the circumstances, it is important for you to know that we remain totally focused on providing outstanding academic medical care. That care will in no way be compromised by the current financial problems at Jackson.

Below is a list of questions and answers that may be helpful for our patients. If you still have unanswered questions, please contact your physician's office for further assistance.

I have an appointment scheduled with a University of Miami physician. Will that appointment be affected?

It will not be affected. All University of Miami physicians are continuing to see all of their scheduled patients. Remember, many UM physicians see patients at UM-operated facilities, and even those appointments scheduled at Jackson Memorial Hospital are unaffected by the current problems.

My UM physician has scheduled me for surgery at Jackson Memorial Hospital and I have also heard there is a shortage of supplies in the operating rooms at Jackson Memorial. Should I be concerned?

Jackson issued the following statement on March 11:

Jackson Patient Care Remains Strong and of the Highest Caliber

Jackson Health System is, and will continue to be, committed to providing the highest quality of medical care for all of its patients. Although Jackson is in the midst of a financial crisis, we want to assure the community and all patients – past, current and future – that our hospitals, emergency rooms and clinics throughout Miami-Dade County are open for business.

Recently, it has been reported that Jackson is running out of necessary medical supplies and that some of our suppliers are ceasing their business relationships with the health system. The community can rest assured that Jackson is fully operational, with all the necessary supplies for the most routine procedures to the most complex surgeries. We are working with all of our vendors to maintain working relationships in order to continue providing much-needed medical care to all Miami-Dade residents.

“Above all, safe patient care is always our first priority – and that has not changed,” said Dr. Gerard A. Kaiser, chief medical officer of Jackson Health System. “The people of Miami-

Dade County can have faith in the tremendous health care provided throughout Jackson Health System.”

Are there enough nurses to take care of patients in the hospital, especially after an operation?

There is no shortage of nurses. In fact, Jackson has the highest staffing ratio of nurses per operational bed of any hospital in Miami-Dade County.

As a current obstetrics patient, due to deliver a baby in the summer, should I be making other plans?

No, your delivery at Jackson Memorial Hospital will proceed as planned. Our other obstetric services, such as prenatal and postpartum follow-up and ultrasound exams, will continue to occur with the same high quality of service at Jackson Memorial and at UM-operated facilities such as University of Miami Hospital, UHealth at Kendall, and the Professional Arts Center on the medical campus.