



Minnesota Hospital Association

NEWS RELEASE
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Twin Cities hospitals coordinate to treat 87 RNC-related patients

Planning, communication pay off, leaders say

St. Paul, Minn. — Planning and communication paid off last week as Twin Cities hospitals responded to stepped-up visits related to the Republican National Convention, hospital leaders said.

In total, St. Paul and Minneapolis hospitals treated 87 conventioners, protestors and others related to the four-day event in the state's Capitol city. Most were treated for minor injuries — some from clashes with police.

Inside the Xcel Energy Center, volunteer staffers at a makeshift health-care center cared for 248 folks suffering from everything from flu-like symptoms to dehydration. Eight were subsequently sent to area hospitals.

“St. Paul shined in the international spotlight during the Republican National Convention, and our hospitals met the challenge of being in the middle of all the activity ...,” St. Paul Mayor Chris Coleman said. “The convention put our world-class health care on display, and the doctors, nurses, and other health-care staff at our hospitals showed their commitment to serving everyone with excellence.”

Planning for the event began in May. Staffers in emergency departments, security, infection control and communications coordinated with law enforcement, fire, mental-health, government and Secret Service officials. Later, twice-daily conference calls covered patient-volume updates, traffic congestion, access to facilities and protestor activity.

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Regions Hospital, which treated the most RNC-related patients and is the east metro's only Level 1 trauma center, coordinated hospitals' RNC response. Regions averaged 212 patients in the ER each day of the convention — about 18 percent more than usual.

However, most days RNC-related visits numbered less than 10. The most such visits — 19 — took place Monday, Sept. 1, when protests were sizable. About eight of those visitors were believed to be protesters or law enforcement officials, Minnesota Physician *Medfax* reported. On the last day of the gathering, which also experienced significant protests, ER visits numbered four, *Medfax* said.

Rick Huston, Regions' director of operations, told Minnesota Hospital Association that overall, cooperative planning was key to the success of hospitals' response.

“We're all competitors in the market, no doubt, but we've all become such strong partners in this whole thing,” Huston said. “We can put aside competitiveness and handle things like this very well.”

RNC-related patients treated by Twin Cities hospitals:

Children's Hospitals and Clinics of Minnesota, St. Paul campus: 3

Hennepin County Medical Center in Minneapolis: 26

Regions Hospital in St. Paul: 37

St. Joseph's Hospital in St. Paul: 7

United Hospital in St. Paul: 14

Volunteers from HealthPartners and Regions Hospital staffed the health-care center inside the Xcel Energy Center.

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The Minnesota Hospital Association (MHA) is a trade association representing 145 hospitals and health systems.

