Email to MEDNAX from an Anesthesiologist at the University of Miami

Subject: Please put patient safety first

What's going to happen when a whole new group of anesthesiologists and CRNAs who have never met or worked together before all start work on the same day, in a facility they've never seen before? And on the *same day* when new anesthesia residents begin their clinical rotations for the first time ever? It sounds like a recipe for a major patient safety disaster.

It's hard enough when ONE anesthesia provider starts a job at a new facility. They don't know where the supplies are kept, including life-saving emergency equipment. They don't know any of the other providers, which means they don't have an idea of how much supervision each one requires in order to provide anesthesia safely for the patients. They don't know how the computer systems work, or how to place orders for medications or lab work or blood products; and they don't know how to find important and relevant information in the patient's medical record, like EKGs, consultant notes, H&Ps, or imaging studies like X-Rays or echocardiograms.

So when this happens with one single provider, it throws a wrench into the system and OR efficiency goes out the window. That's the BEST case scenario. The worst case is when an emergency develops and the new providers don't have the experience to know where the LMAs, nasal trumpets, gum-elastic bougies, the Glidescopes or any of a number of emergency airway supplies are kept, or how to get one quickly in the case of a deadly airway emergency. This takes time, and the new anesthesia providers rely on the others who have been there before and know how to get this done in the critical few minutes before something terrible and irreversible happens to a patient.

There will be no one to rely on if ***everyone*** is new and all are starting work on the same day.

If it were me, I wouldn't want to be having surgery at any of Atrium's facilities for the first 3 months of this cluster bomb. I'd either go somewhere else or wait until at least Thanksgiving.