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November 18, 2010, 9:15 pm

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Sparrow and nurses/health care professionals announce tentative contract agreement

LANSING, Michigan – Sparrow Hospital and the union of nurses and health care professionals represented by the Michigan Nurses Association have announced a tentative agreement on a new three-year contract covering Sparrow's 2,100 professional employees. The agreement came following a meeting between Dennis Swan, President and CEO, and John Karebian, Executive Director of the Michigan Nurses Association.

The Agreement provides that Sparrow withdraw its lockout notice and the union cancels the strike scheduled for Monday, November 22, 2010.

"We're pleased that we have an agreement. Everyone came together in the interest of the hospital, the associates and the community," said MNA/PECSH president Jeff Breslin, RN. "The negotiating team is prepared to unanimously recommend the agreement to our members for ratification."

The tentative agreement includes increased nurse staffing levels, a modest increase in wages, and an agreement to changes in the health and retirement programs. Details of the contract agreement will be shared with PECSH/MNA members in the near future. The agreement still must be ratified by the nurses and health care professionals.

"We want to assure our patients, their families and our region that Sparrow's dedicated Associates will continue to provide quality, compassionate patient care serving the needs of our patients 24./7/365" Swan said.

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As mid-Michigan's premier health care organization and the region's largest private employer, Sparrow is committed to providing quality, compassionate care to every person, every time and becoming a national leader in quality and patient experience. Sparrow encompasses two Lansing campuses, along with hospitals in St. Johns, Ionia and Carson City. The health system features dozens of satellite care centers, the Sparrow Health Science Pavilion and the Michigan Athletic Club. Sparrow Hospital, a major teaching facility, is formally affiliated with Michigan State University's three human health colleges.

The Michigan Nurses Association is the largest, most effective union for RNs in Michigan. As the voice of all registered nurses in Michigan, MNA advocates for nurses and their patients at the State Capitol, in the community, and at the bargaining table. MNA is a constituent member of National Nurses United and an affiliate of the AFL-CIO.