
UMASS MEMORIAL CUTTING 350 JOBS



UMass Memorial Health Care notified employees Tuesday that it was cutting 350 jobs, the Boston Globe reports. The cuts equate to 2.6 percent of the health care system's total workforce of 13,700. According to the report, UMass Memorial is making the cuts because of "flat patient volume and pressure from health insurers." A total of 130 workers will be laid off, another 120 vacant jobs will be frozen and 100 jobs will be trimmed by moving full-time employees to part time and cutting overtime. "We're trying to prepare ourselves for the longer term," John G. O'Brien, president and chief executive of UMass Memorial Health Care, told the Globe. "We don't think the pressure on hospitals to reduce costs will abate for several years." The system caters predominantly to low-income patients and the weak economy has led state health insurance funding to be drastically reduced. UMass Memorial Health Care has 1,125 beds and is the largest hospital system in central and western Massachusetts. The system had an \$85 million operating deficit for the 12 months ended Sept. 30, the Globe reports.

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