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UMC's Transplant Program Granted Extension for Operation *Hospital and Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services Reach Agreement*

LAS VEGAS — University Medical Center and the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) reached an agreement today to extend the operations of the hospital's transplant program until June 8, 2009.

Since May 2008, UMC and CMS have been working to identify and improve quality assessments and performance improvement efforts. A large part of meeting the CMS standards included increasing surgical coverage on a 24-hour, 7-day-a-week basis. In that regard, the hospital has contracted with four transplant surgeons from the nationally-renown University of Utah Transplant Center. These surgeons will be rotating at UMC to provide additional surgical services to the program. Additionally, the hospital has arranged for additional administrative support including a designated, full-time transplant administrator and data coordinator, the development of a quality assessment and performance improvement system and revised policies and procedures that conform with CMS' requirements. CMS agreed to the extension in consideration of these improvements and in response to the UMC's request for reconsideration of a termination date of December 3, 2008.

"UMC is committed to providing our patients with the best possible care," said Brian Brannman, UMC chief operating officer. "We believe that our partnership with the University of Utah and the substantial improvements we have made will assist us in assuring the highest quality of care and best outcomes for our patients."

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