

Questions asked of the editor of The Panama News.com about the potential medical strike in Panama.

Rob Brown: Panama often touts it's medical system as one of the primary reasons to retire to Panama. In your opinion, will the potential nurses strike effect medical care in Panama? Will it effect visitors and expatriates living in Panama? Eric: I doubt it will affect many visitors. Usually for them, the only contact with the public health care system is in an emergency, and in all of the strikes the emergency services are being maintained.

Most expats and all medical tourists get private care, which is much cheaper than health care in the USA and which is usually given by people who are part-time in the public system and part-time in private practice. A strike in the public system does send some folks to use the private system so can have that ripple effect. It is slight.

The nurses may strike, but right now the medical techs are striking, and it's a problem for the system. Nobody to do the lab tests or x-rays or anaesthesia (except for the ER) and all that.

Eric

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