

REGISTERED NURSES' SOLUTIONS TO PLACE PATIENTS FIRST

Every day, the 6,000 Nurses of L.A. County strive to provide the highest quality patient care. We call on Los Angeles County to partner with nurses to remove current obstacles to quality and develop and implement practical solutions.

Together let us build a 2009 healthcare system based on quality and sustainability.

We have an opportunity to improve our healthcare delivery to keep L.A. County healthy and manage our costs. Improved preventive care keeps our out of costly hospital beds. If hospitalized, patients need effective care that sends them home sooner and healthier.

Today our healthcare system faces a crisis of increasing

L.A. COUNTY CAN DELIVER BETTER AND SMARTER PATIENT CARE

needs coupled with decreasing resources. Everywhere, RN staffing is being CUT.

We need MORE nurses in order to safeguard patient safety, not fewer. As Patient Advocates, Nurses have solutions to the challenges of providing high quality care to the residents of Los Angeles County.

We challenge county leaders at every level and department to partner with us to place patient safety first by committing to these solutions:

In Our Inpatient Acute Care Hospitals:

- Minimum RN Ratios based on Patient Acuity (individual care needs)
- Rapid deployment of RNs when staffing is unsafe for patients
- Nurses select the 50% direct-care RNs on Acuity Review Committee
- Charge Nurses should lead and cover breaks; no regular assignment
- RN Committees: enhance labor-management productivity
- Training programs for Critical Care, ER, OR Nurse Specialties

In Our Outpatient Clinics, Detention Facilities, and All Work Settings:

- Increase Nursing Staff to provide quality patient care per regulations
- Immediately investigate complaints of unsafe staffing or workload
- Registered Nurses shall be supervised by Registered Nurses
- Train and adjust assignment of Registered Nurse Preceptors
- Notice to Nurses of confirmed exposure to a communicable disease
- Compensate Nurses for time worked! e.g. uniform changes, overtime

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