

Throughout BC, nurses are advocating for patient and nurse safety by filing PRFs**West Coast General Hospital****RNs protect critical care patients**

Problem: nurse working in the ICU with one patient was assigned to also cover the PAR, leaving the ICU patient unattended.

Remedy/Resolution: ICU nurses will only be used as workload when available, not assigned to replace staff on other units.

Switchboard duties no longer interfering with direct patient care

Problem: RN working in emergency was responsible for providing break relief for the switchboard operator after 1500 hrs on weekdays, all hours between 0900 and 2100 hrs on stats and weekends. This practice continually compromised the ability of RNs to meet workload demands in the ER.

Remedy/Resolution: RNs will only provide break relief if their workload allows. Employer will look at other ways to provide break relief.

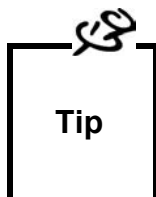
Better management when hospital over census

Problem: two admitted patients kept in the ER when no inpatient beds available. Med-surg nurses had been instructed by their manager that they were not to go over census. This compromised ER nurses' ability to attend codes, and take their breaks.

Remedy/Resolution: Employer to provide clear direction to staff on handling over census admissions. In future, ER will keep one admitted patient and the next two will be over census on the med -surg unit. After that, patients will go to Ambulatory Care.

Fraser Health Authority RN says management making progress on PRFs

"A lot of hard work pays off" says Eagle Ridge RN Debbie Davis. "The PRF process has taken on a life of its own for management. They've developed an on-line tracking process and they've spent hours learning the process and many people are involved. The persistence we've had around these forms is obviously having an effect and I think that's a wonderful thing."



Know your PRF management reps. The process will go more smoothly if you know who the PRF management reps are for your worksite. Even if you don't have a PRF ready to take forward, ask your manager for this information.