

Throughout BC, nurses are advocating for patient and nurse safety by filing PRFs

Kelowna General Hospital

Protection for triage nurses in ER waiting area

Problem: Violent patient with a knife threatened triage nurse in crowded ER waiting area. Heightened concern at the time due to shooting death of patient at Mission Memorial Hospital. Security unable to see incident.

Process: 1 PRF filed. ER manager very supportive. Resolved at committee level.

Remedy/Resolution: Employer has committed to renovating the waiting area so that security can easily visualize the waiting areas.

Victoria General Hospital

Nurses work together to preserve Code integrity

(oldie but goodie)

Problem: Management reorganizing the Code team without consulting nurses. Established practice was for staff from CCU and ICU to attend codes, one RN to run the code and one RN to record. Ward RNs provided history and assisted with CPR. Then, VIHA phased out the CCU reducing staff to 2 and making it often impossible to attend codes. CCU and ICU coordinated coverage with ICU usually sending 2 RNs. Cardiac Arrest Committee then said send 1 from ICU and 1 from PICU but PICU also only 2 RN unit, so safety and workload an issue.

Process: Nurses from PICU and ICU filed PRFs seeking to have two nurses from ICU attend codes. Committee responded by saying staff RN from short stay med-surg unit (5D) could be the second responder. Nurses from 5D then filed PRF, as safety and workload an issue. Resolved at large meeting with representatives from all three units, management, staff nurses and stewards plus chair of Cardiac Arrest Committee.

Remedy/Resolution: ICU nurses to provide code coverage; code cart to come from ICU for all codes. Cardiac Arrest Committee to increase membership to include RN from ICU.

Burnaby Hospital

Regional campaign and multiple PRFs pay off in the ER

Over-whelming workloads and over-crowding in Fraser Health Authority ERs brought nurses together last year to plan a campaign. PRFs played a key role and nurses are seeing results. Here's some of what's been achieved at Burnaby Hospital alone: charge nurses have won the right to book RNs as needed for workload without admin authorization; RTs have been directed to remain with vented patients in ER; another 12 hour RN position on days (LPN position reduced); ER patients get priority for ICU beds if vent needed; 5 surgical over-flow beds opened in sub-acute; ER schedule readjusted to provide better coverage during busiest periods; security directed to stay at their kiosk in ER on nights; PRF meetings held in a timely manner. All proof that management is listening to front line nurses.

TIP

You do not have to file a PRF immediately. After you have discussed the matter with your immediate supervisor and it is not resolved, you have up to seven calendar days from the time of your discussion with the supervisor to file the PRF.