

Support Your Nurses At Quincy Medical Center

Help Us Ensure You Receive the Care You Deserve

The registered nurses of Quincy Medical Center are taking this opportunity to ask for your help to ensure that you receive the nursing care you or your loved ones deserve as patients in our hospital.

The Public Needs to Know:

- The primary reason you are admitted to a hospital is because your condition is so severe you require around-the-clock attention by a registered nurse. Nurses are specially trained to monitor your condition from minute-to-minute and to take immediate action to prevent complications or to save your life.
- Two years ago, we nurses worked closely with our prior administration to negotiate appropriate RN staffing levels that would allow us to provide quality patient care. This resulted in a written commitment by the hospital to adhere to specific limits on the number of patients that can be assigned to a nurse at one time in specific areas of the hospital. They have also published this staffing plan on the Massachusetts Hospital Association's "Patient Care Link" web siteⁱ as a promise of what you should expect for RN staffing at QMC.
- Unfortunately, our current administration is refusing to honor their commitment and regularly assigns nurses more patients than the staffing plan provides, which can dramatically impact your care.
- The scientific research shows anytime an RN has more than four patients, the risk of injury or death increases by 7 percent per patient,ⁱⁱ along with a 53 percent increase in respiratory failure and a 17 percent increase in medical complications. Better RN staffing is linked to better patient outcomes, fewer deaths and shorter hospital stays.ⁱⁱⁱ
- Nurses have filed dozens of official reports of inadequate staffing conditions at the facility and some have reported that these conditions compromised the care of their patients, yet the hospital continues to refuse to adhere to promised staffing levels.

No matter what network we are affiliated with, no matter how skilled your surgeon may be, if you don't receive proper time and attention from a registered nurse, your care and recovery could be placed in jeopardy. While we all want the hospital to succeed and to thrive, we cannot allow the current conditions to continue as nurses have a legal and ethical responsibility to advocate for your safety. We have tried for months to convince our administration to honor their commitment yet they have refused. We are now turning to you, our patients and our community, to help us help you.

ⁱ www.patientsfirstma.org, click on Patient Care Link, go to "staffing plans" and select the link to Quincy Medical Center

ⁱⁱ Hospital Nurse Staffing and Patient Mortality, Nurse Burnout, and Job Dissatisfaction, JAMA, Oct. 2002

ⁱⁱⁱ Nurse Staffing and Quality of Patient Care, AHRQ Publication No. 07-E005, May, 2007

Contact the QMC CEO at 617-773-6100

**Tell Him to Honor the Staffing Guidelines
Promised to the Nurses and the Public**

**Tell Him to Make Patient
Safety the Bottom Line**