MNA Mtg
11:30 - 1:00

Daley Conference Room
5th Floor (China Trade Bldg)
2 Boylston St.
Boston, ma.
Trish 617 640 3526

parking @:
Boston Common Garage

good morning,

My name is Claire O'Connell. I have been a Registered Nurse @ Brigham and Women's Hospital for over 26 years.

I have seen many changes in this time. Some for the better and some not. The most important change has been patient acuity. We now have fewer nurses to care for the patients in the ICU.

The number of patients a nurse will care for has gone up but the acuity has remained the same. In the past, a patient may be "singled" with one registered nurse, but now, that registered nurse has 2 patients with high acuity

8 pts.

5

For example, in my ICU, we could have 8 patients in total but only 5 Registered Nurses to care for these 8 patients. This may cause many things to NOT happen. They may seem minor or simple but are very important to healing and patient safety. Patients NOT getting OOB or not being repositioned because of decreased staffing.

Decubitus ulcers are prominent in patients that don't get ODB or repositioned frequently.

My coworker may not be able to leave their patients or simply the safety of the unit causes them NOT to be able to assist.

ie. Tying up 2 Registered Nurses, therefore, leaving only 3 Registered Nurses on the unit to cover 7 Patients.

I have seen these simple tasks NOT done for patients. They rely on us at the bedside to care for them to the best of our ability. This isn't always done.

Another example occurred a few wks ago. I was caring for a patient who was very ill. She had 14 different IV medications running at the same time. 4 of which were to maintain her B/P. She was on a ventilator, and dialysis at the bedside. In the past, this patient would have 2 Registered Nurses caring for her. It was just myself.

The large family also had to be supported, as she was very ill. I was not able to give her basic care ie. not able to clean her mouth until 3pm. NOT OK

it BOTHERS me to this day. I had help from coworkers, which I appreciated but needed another Registered Nurse at the bedside with me..

The patient deserved the best care but I feel she didn't "get the best" from me.

Brigham and Women's Hospital is a great place to work and hope we can get back to the "caring" of patients and not the cost.

The patients deserve the best! I don't feels its possible to do more with less and expect the same outcome.

For most people, becoming a nurse is a calling and to NOT be able to give your best when someone is at their worst is just NOT ok. I am here to advocate for your help in developing a strong and comprehensive acuity tool to ensure that I can provide the care and attention my patients deserve.

~~I don't feels its possible to do more with less and get the same outcome.~~

Thank you very much.