

A group of the nurses who currently work at UMass Memorial Pediatric Intensive Care Unit have reviewed what the MNA has submitted for acuity criteria and we are in agreement that for our patients and our practice the Commission should include all of the MNA's suggestions. We wish for you to keep in mind is that nurses are the last line of defense, the ones at the bedside delivering and evaluating care.

So now take a moment and imagine if you will, a precious child, whom you personally love, now vulnerable and sick, requiring life supportive measures. They are now intubated, sedated, requiring central line access, arterial line monitoring, and vasoactive medications. Your world as you know it is now out of control, you're anxious and overwhelmed with what is happening. Now ask yourself, does this child need and deserve a nurse who is not distracted or otherwise occupied, worrying about her other patient? Wouldn't you want her to have your child's undivided attention? That's what we want. As a critical care nurse we are always assessing, evaluating, and intervening on behalf of our patients. What cannot be measured here is the thought process required to deliver care to critically ill patients.

I thank you for your time and allowing me to testify on behalf of myself and my colleagues.

Respectfully submitted,

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