

UC Patient Care WATCH

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www.UCPatientCareWatch.org

UC Davis uses "temps" in patient care jobs. How could that affect your medical care?

UC medical centers are using temporary workers to fill essential health care jobs. With less training in UC hospital procedures, "temps" require more supervision, which can prevent the UC career employees on their teams from focusing fully on patient care. Also, because "temps" aren't permanent employees, they may be less invested in the quality of patient care at UC.

In 2004,² UCD used "temp" patient care workers for perfusionist and pharmacy tech services, and in the Radiology and Radiology Oncology Departments, the primary care network, and some clinics.³

UC workers believe UC's low wages have created vacancies in many jobs, which has caused reliance on "temps."

Last year at UCSF, a "temp" nurse accidentally administered over four times the prescribed dose of methadone to a hip-surgery patient, who died later that day, triggering an ongoing federal investigation.¹



"It's difficult to recruit new staff and keep our existing staff because UC's pay and benefits are behind other hospitals. Without enough staff, management uses a lot of "temp" workers, who have little experience working at UC. This could be dangerous for patients and hurts quality patient care."

- John Tinker, MRI Tech

NEXT WEEK: ...The same health regulators who are investigating UCSF for a "temp" nurse's lethal mistake regulate all UC's medical centers. Learn about what they've found in recent years, and other controversies at UC's hospitals...

**Brought to you by the 11,000 UC Patient Care Technical Employees at UC's Medical Centers represented by AFSCME Local 3299. AFSCME is currently in contract negotiations with UC.*

We are fighting for market wages, which we believe will decrease UC reliance on temps. Please support us!
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No request to cease services or stop deliveries.

Footnotes: 1 - "Regulators hit UCSF for lax drug policies," San Francisco Business Times, 9/28/07. 2 - The latest year for which data is available. 3 - Information provided by UC Davis Medical Center.

