

# UC Patient Care WATCH

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[www.UCPatientCareWatch.org](http://www.UCPatientCareWatch.org)

## UCSD 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. These “temps” include respiratory therapists, pharmacy and ultrasound techs.

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 2006, UCSD filled 160 full-time slots with “temp” workers performing nursing and other direct patient care tasks. “Temps” worked 8% of patient care service hours that year.<sup>2</sup>** UC workers believe UC’s low wages create vacancies, causing 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.<sup>1</sup>**



*“UCSD hires temporary workers from outside companies to address chronic short-staffing. But “temps” need to be trained in our routines and that slows down our work. Often when we use “temps,” patients have longer waits. To improve quality care, the department should use workers with continuous experience.”*

**- Venus Martinez, Certified Phlebotomist Technician II**

**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!  
**1-888-856-3299 X121 [www.UCPatientCareWatch.org](http://www.UCPatientCareWatch.org) [ucpatientcarewatch@gmail.com](mailto:ucpatientcarewatch@gmail.com)**

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