

UC Patient Care WATCH

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www.UCPatientCareWatch.org

UCSF 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 registered nurses, nursing assistants, respiratory therapists, and pharmacy, ultrasound, and radiology 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, UCSF filled 260 full-time positions with registry nurses or other “temp” workers.² 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



“I take care of patients with breathing problems and deal with life and death situations. Wages are below-market, so we’ve always relied heavily on “temps.” It takes a long time to learn the equipment and protocols. Patient care would be significantly improved if we kept career employees.”

**- Premila Charan,
Respiratory Therapist**

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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