



Patient Care First

COALITION FOR PATIENT RIGHTS AND SAFE STAFFING IN NEW JERSEY



OUR COALITION SUPPORTS:

- ❖ The establishment of safe nurse-staffing levels for patients in all hospital units, through legislation and regulation.
 - Minimum nurse-staffing levels in all hospital units with processes for increasing staff in response to patient acuity.
- ❖ The reinstatement of regular hospital inspections and immediate, thorough complaint inspections by the New Jersey Department of Health (NJ DOH):
 - Increased DOH staff for inspections.
 - The right of staff to accompany inspectors, and the right for consumers or staff to receive all information related to the complaint.
 - Posting on the NJDOH website of complaint and inspection results.
- ❖ Effective enforcement of patient safety laws by the NJ DOH and oversight of hospital compliance with New Jersey laws and regulations.

WHY DOES NEW JERSEY NEED NURSE TO PATIENT STAFFING RATIOS?

- ❖ Numerous studies now demonstrate the direct link between unsafe nurse staffing levels and increased patient complications, poor outcomes, high readmission rates, and even mortality.
- ❖ New Jersey regulations governing nurse staffing in hospitals have not been updated since 1987 – and are now woefully inadequate to meet the needs of today’s hospitalized patients.
- ❖ Existing regulations cover only a few hospital areas and no statewide standards exist for hospital units, such as medical/surgical and emergency rooms. Hospitals set their own staffing – and actual staffing varies from hospital to hospital. Every patient deserves to know that the right number of nurses will be available for their care.
- ❖ New federal and state laws financially penalize hospitals for poor patient outcomes, readmission rates, and poor patient satisfaction scores. Safe staffing will save hospitals money – and improve care.
- ❖ Nursing retention rates are also adversely affected by understaffing. We need to keep qualified, experienced nurses at the bedside.

COALITION ORGANIZATIONS AND SUPPORTERS INCLUDE:

AFL-CIO, Health Professionals & Allied Employees (HPAE), JNESO, United Steelworkers USW Health Care Workers Council, CWA New Jersey Nurses Union (NJNU), 1199-J AFSCME, Shore Nurses Union of the New York State Nurses Assn., UFCW Local 152 and Citizen Action.



The Coalition for Patient Rights and Safe Staffing is a coalition of nursing and health care unions and organizations, patient advocacy groups and supporters, all working together to protect patient care in New Jersey hospitals by strengthening and enforcing patient safety and safe staffing laws. For more information or to get involved go to: www.patientsafetycoalition.com

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