Safe Staffing Requires an Acuity System that is Transparent and Nurse-Driven

Bargaining Update #8 – Aug. 10, 2017

In negotiations today, CNA and Kaiser discussed patient acuity systems. CNA reiterated the important role that GRASP plays in providing safe patient care because it is a system that allows bedside nurses to clearly see how staffing levels are determined and ensures that nurses have a voice in the staffing process.

Kaiser made a presentation about EPIC Acuity, a system that it would like to implement at Medical Centers across Northern California. CNA has numerous concerns and questions about EPIC Acuity. First and foremost, CNA is concerned that nurses will have no ability to see how staffing levels are determined, nor any visible mechanism to ever increase staffing above ratios no matter how acutely ill patients are. Don’t be fooled by Kaiser’s one-sided propaganda about EPIC Acuity, talk to your CNA Nurse Negotiators about how EPIC could lead to reduced staffing on your unit.

Meeting Our Patients’ Needs in the Clinics

CNA made a proposal to ensure that there are adequate RN staff in outpatient departments. Nurses discussed the critical role of clinic RNs and how Kaiser members receive better care in the outpatient setting when there are sufficient numbers of RNs to care for them. CNA noted that over the last four years the number of RNs and NPs employed in outpatient departments has fallen despite Kaiser adding approximately 500,000 members in Northern California.

A Seat at the Table for Patient Care Coordinators

CNA also made a proposal to add a Patient Care Coordinator (PCC) representative to the inpatient Professional Performance Committees of each Medical Center in recognition of the essential role that PCCs play providing safe, personalized patient care. Our next bargaining session is scheduled for Tuesday, August 15.

GET INVOLVED

Patient Leaflet on Friday, August 18

Nurses will leaflet on the need for safe staffing in all care settings. Contact your Nurse Rep or Labor Rep for more details.