

ARTICLE 7
PROFESSIONAL PRACTICE COMMITTEE

A. PROFESSIONAL PRACTICE COMMITTEE

1. A Professional Practice Committee (PPC) of bargaining unit nurses may be established by the Association at each patient care facility in the major medical centers. Additionally, a PPC of bargaining unit nurses may be established in a Student Health Center away from the major medical centers. The purpose of the PPC shall be to consider and constructively recommend to the nursing administration ways and means to improve nursing practice and patient care, including health and safety, technology, and staffing ratio and acuity matters, insofar as the provisions of the Agreement are not added to or otherwise modified.
2. No nurse shall be subject to reprisal for bringing forward nursing practice concerns to management.
3. When practicable, the University shall provide information requested by the PPC within thirty (30) calendar days. At least once per quarter the appropriate Chief Nursing Officer (CNO) shall meet with the PPC at one of its scheduled meetings. Whenever the PPC makes a written recommendation to the appropriate CNO or, in Student Health Centers, the appropriate Director, s/he shall respond to the PPC in writing within thirty (30) calendar days unless the Association and the University mutually agree that the time may be extended.
4. The Association will furnish the CNO, or her/his designee, with the PPC meeting calendar and the list of PPC members at each facility. If the meeting calendar changes, the Association shall make every effort to provide notice of the new meeting time and date prior to the day on which the work schedule is established for the attendees.
5. The PPC may also request, through the appropriate office of labor relations, to meet with one representative of the Safety Committee and one representative of Nursing Administration to discuss and/or resolve health and safety issues. If the request is denied, the PPC shall be provided within thirty (30) calendar days, a written response describing why the request was denied and/or actions to be taken. The University shall annually provide to the PPC the facility Cal-OSHA 300 logs.
6. When the PPC cannot resolve chronic nurse staffing ratio and acuity matters, the PPC may appeal such matters to the Staffing Ratio and Acuity Dispute Resolution Process provided in Article 8. Allegations involving sporadic staffing concerns are not eligible for submission to the Staffing Ratio and Acuity Dispute Resolution Process.

B. RELEASE TIME

1. PPC members, or their designees, are eligible to receive up to three (3) hours of paid release time each month when the conditions of this Section B. are met.
 - a. The University will make every effort to ensure that such nurses are released from work to attend the PPC meetings when the Association has provided the University with advance notice of meeting dates and times, in accordance with §A.4., above. The University will not unreasonably deny attendance at PPC meetings.
 - b. The University shall make timely payment to PPC members for attendance at the meetings provided the PPC submits to the Director of Nursing or her/his designee, the signed attendance roster prior to the day on which the timesheets are sent to payroll.
 - c. At each patient care facility at the major medical centers, release time will be provided for one (1) nurse for every one hundred (100) bargaining unit nurses or major fraction thereof, provided that the maximum number of RNs on the committee is fifteen (15) at UCIMC and UCSDHS, twenty (20) at UCDHS, and twenty five (25) at UCLAMC AND UCSFMC.
 - 1) Not more than one (1) PPC member shall come from a particular patient care unit or equivalent.
 - 2) Medical Center Practice Committee members who are not scheduled to work at the time the PPC meeting takes place, and who attend the meeting, shall receive paid time not to exceed three (3) hours. The time will not be considered as time worked for purposes of overtime or other premium pay.
 - d. For Student Health Centers, the ratio of members for whom release time shall be paid shall be one (1) member for every twenty-five (25) bargaining unit nurses or major fraction thereof at that facility, with a minimum of one (1) member.
2. Nothing shall preclude the CNO from authorizing additional release time upon request of the PPC. Release time for PPC members is coordinated by the appropriate office of labor relations.
3. For each Medical Center PPC, CNA may designate one (1) PPC Member as PPC Chair.