

# It's not okay to cut patient care: Tell Swedish administration to put patients first

As patient advocates, we are not standing by while Swedish administrators make cuts to frontline staff that will impact us and our patients. Our community expects and deserves the highest standard of care when they come to Swedish to deliver their babies, receive intensive care, or have an emergency. These cuts to care simply don't meet our promise of extraordinary care.

We are standing up in forums, wearing stickers, and demanding accountability in change teams, and at CEO Guy Hudson's door. We delivered a petition to Guy Hudson with thousands of signatures from around Swedish about the critical role our IV teams play in our campuses.

## Plan to attend Unity Break and take action!

Departments across the system are gathering in the cafeteria for a unity break to call on executives at Swedish to stop cuts that will hurt patients and impede our ability to provide critical care to our community. Plan to attend a meeting to do your part to call on Swedish leadership to be accountable to patient care.

Campus	Wednesday, October 31
Issaquah cafeteria	12:00pm – 1:30pm
Edmonds cafeteria	11:30am – 1:30pm
First Hill	11:00am – 3:00pm
Cherry Hill	10:30am – 1:30pm
Ballard	11:00am – 2:30pm



"Management's proposed cuts in ICU/IMCU will impact the sickest and most vulnerable patients and we will be doing more with less. This new staffing model takes time away from the patients' bedsides and slows patient throughput. Calculating the cost of cutting bedside care equates to delayed care, missed care, and big impacts to our patients and staff. This is just wrong. Our ability to improve working conditions

to keep our patients safe can only be achieved if we demonstrate strength across the system. This is why this Wednesday we are coming together for a unity break. Will you join me to remind management of the critical roles we play and why we need increases to staffing not cuts?"

**Jeromy Parks, NAC, IMCU, First Hill**



"It is completely unsafe for the most vulnerable patients at Ballard — babies born at the Family Childbirth Center — to close the Special Care Nursery and remove the vital specialty care of a Neonatologist provider and SCN RNs. We are continuing to stand up for patient and staff safety to make Swedish do the right thing. We are committed to patient and staff safety, whether Swedish is or not. It is our duty to protect these babies like they are our own, because they are and we take that duty very seriously."

**Shelia Zentler, RN, Family Childbirth Center, Ballard, Change Team member and mother of a Ballard born baby**



# Nutrition Services are essential for the well-being of our staff and community



Nutrition services workers are sticking together. Management's proposal to eliminate services is not right for patients. We will not be a "rubber stamp" committee to rush through cuts that don't make sense for our staff and community. That's why we are standing up by wearing stickers and saying these cuts aren't okay. The community is joining us in filling our comment cards to maintain food service at each campus—and you can too!

**You Be The Judge!**

*Please circle your answer*

	Exceeded Expectation	Met Expectation	Below Expectation
Overall general impression?	1	2	3
Service?	1	2	3
Food?	1	2	3
Atmosphere?	1	2	3
Cleanliness?	1	2	3
Additional comments and suggestions:			
_____			
_____			
_____			
Date _____	Time of Day _____		
<i>If you would like a response:</i>			
Name _____			
Address _____			
Phone (daytime) _____			
<i>Thank you!</i>			



"We see hundreds of patrons come to our cafeterias every day. We need a safe place and warm food for our patient families. We need a place for staff and our doctors to sit down and take a break. These cuts to food services make no sense. Swedish is sending the message to our staff and community that they don't care about us."

**Kevin Nguyen, Cook II, Nutrition Services, First Hill, SEIU Healthcare 1199NW Executive Board member**

## Observation beds relieve pressure

The Clinical Decisions Unit (CDU) at First Hill is a nine bed unit for ED Observation patients (with an anticipated discharge or inpatient admission decision within 24 hours). This unit assists the inpatient floors by accepting boarding ED patients waiting for in-patient bed availability. All non-ICU Cath Lab patients are sent to CDU post-operatively, this includes patients admitted for ambulatory procedures like fistulograms and angiograms. C-POD and Endoscopy departments utilize the CDU for patients whose procedural recovery occurs after these units close or if they are at capacity. Other units that utilize the CDU for accommodating patient overflow include main PACU and same day surgery.

The CDU is staffed by nurses with backgrounds in ED, ICU, Float Pool, Telemetry and Neuro. This diversity allows the unit to successfully manage a diverse patient population. Our protocols create the possibility of providing treatment and monitoring of patients while waiting to be bedded, taking pressure off of multiple in-patient units, ambulatory surgery/procedural areas and the emergency department.



"We play an important role at First Hill. Swedish's proposed closure of the CDU will affect multiple departments. Our change team is working diligently to stand for patient safety. We are doing the work to ensure that our diverse mix of patients continues to receive care from staff that has the education, the experience, and safe RN to patient ratios to ensure successful outcomes for our patients and our teams."

**Gonya Loobey, RN, BSN CDU, First Hill**