

Submitter: Carrie Lyn Green
On Behalf Of: Nurses and medical staff
Committee: House Committee On Behavioral Health and Health Care
Measure: HB2697

I've worked in the hospital setting since 1979 as a ward clerk then in 1983 as a registered nurse. My best experiences have been leaving work knowing my patients received excellent care. Over the past 8 years I am dissatisfied by the overall care our patients are receiving, as a whole. The dementia patient who is scared is forced into restraints to keep her safe from getting out of bed. Why? No one is available to do the humane act of sitting and holding her or his hand and comforting them. Patients get suboptimal baths and personal care observed in filthy hands and nails that require soaking and using equipment to clean under the nail and clip the nails so they stay clean. Staff often say they "don't have time". The excuses of too much charting, too high of acuity are often stated. They all feel badly but.... Teeth cleaned, meds given in time, the continually increasing amount of charting takes away from the care each of our patients require and deserve. Family support is often abbreviated as well. Who will sit with them and explain in terms they understand the treatment options, illnesses, plan of care or the incredible time to discuss palliative care.

We are losing the humanity of patient care. With our advancing knowledge we can diagnose more illnesses but our time at our pcps are limited. Rushing through a doctors visit is not optimal at reducing chronic or intermittent illness.

Help us take care of people, not numbers! The only way to accomplish this is through a consistent, thoughtful and realistic staff plan throughout our medical field.