



## Lunch Break Relief Survey

**NURSES' SAFETY and WELL BEING is CRITICAL for SAFE PATIENT CARE!**

Are you able to take an **uninterrupted meal break** on your work shift?

You are entitled to an uninterrupted meal break.

Below is a Meal Break Survey conducted by the Professional Practice and Patient Safety Council (PPPSC) at WHC composed of all Staff Nurses

Go to our web site [www.nursesunited.org](http://www.nursesunited.org) to complete the survey on line or download a hard copy of the survey.

Complete it, and fax it in to the Union office (240-235-2019) Complete **and Return your confidential survey Form asap.**

**All information is kept confidential.**

Your first name: \_\_\_\_\_ Last name \_\_\_\_\_

Unit: \_\_\_\_\_

Are you a: Full-time Nurse (works 36 – 40 hours per week)

Weekend Incentive Nurse

Float Pool Nurse

Part-time Nurse

Which shifts do you work? (You may select more than one)

a. Days b. Evening c. Nights

**Article 11.5 Meal Time: When patient care coverage permits, Nurses shall be allowed one 30 (thirty) minute break for eating a meal in an eight or more hour shift per day. Meal time shall not be restricted to Hospital premises. When in event of emergencies, or because of inadequate patient care coverage, as determined by the hospital, a Nurse is not able to take her/his meal break, she/he shall be compensated for the missed meal time at her/his applicable hourly rate, including shift differential as it applies.**

**Department of Labor states that the employee must be completely relieved of duty for the purposes of eating regular meals. The employee is not relieved if he is required to perform any duties whether active or inactive, while eating.**

**Please answer the following questions below:**

1. When you take your meal break, who assumes care of your patients? You may select more than one answer.
  - a. No one
  - b. Coworker
  - c. Resource Nurse
  - d. Clinical Care Facilitator
  - e. Director or Assistant Director
  
2. How often are you able to take a 30-minute, uninterrupted meal break?
  - a. Always
  - b. Nearly always
  - c. 50%
  - d. 25%
  - e. Almost Never
  - f. Never
  
3. What factors determine when you are able to have a meal break?
  - a. Whenever I am hungry
  - b. When patient care allows
  - c. Predetermined at beginning of shift
  - d. Other (please specify) \_\_\_\_\_
  
4. Do you feel your patients are safely cared for while you are on your meal break?
  - a. Yes      b. No
  
5. Are you able to safely care for your patients as well as a coworker's patients while they are on their meal break?
  - a. Yes      b. No

6. If you are unable to take your meal break, do you notify the supervisor and submit a request to be paid for it?

- a. Yes
- b. No

7.) Would you like for the PPPSC to make recommendations on how to improve lunch coverage?

- a. Yes
- b. No

8.) Do you have any comments or suggestions regarding meal break coverage? Please include them below:

Please FAX to NNU office 240-235-2019

Or mail to National Nurses United 8630 Fenton Street Suite 1100 Silver Spring MD 20910

**Thank you,**

**The PPPSC Staff Nurse Members: Chair Lori Marlowe, RN - 4D; Co-Chair Erica Ward, RN - 3H; Secretary Charmaine Noubissi, RN - 3NE; Minnie Johnson, RN - 3E; Mary Smith, RN - NICU; Dru Gist, RN - 3G; Judy Alba, RN - Third Floor Recover Room; Jean Keppler, RN - ER; Bridget Barnes, RN - ER - temporarily sitting in place for Jean Keppler, RN.**