

# 10 HEALTH & SAFETY QUESTIONS FOR NURSES



Washington State Nurses Association  
575 Andover Park West, Suite 101  
Seattle, WA 98188  
206-575-7979  
[www.wsna.org](http://www.wsna.org)

- 1** Do you have a Health and Safety Committee? Does each nursing unit have a front line nurse representative on the committee?
- 2** Do you have a no manual lift policy and devices to prevent back injuries and provide safer patient handling?
- 3** Do you have needleless IV systems and safer needle/sharps devices in every unit where sharps are used? Are disposal boxes within sight and arms reach? Is post-exposure prophylactic medication provided within 2 hours of the bloodborne pathogen exposure as appropriate?
- 4** Is this facility latex-free? Has this facility eliminated Mercury?
- 5** Do you use safe alternatives to cleaning chemicals, disinfectants and pesticides? Have there been indoor air quality complaints?
- 6** Do you have support services for nurses following stressful events such as workplace violence or the death of a patient? How can a staff nurse request such a meeting? What security measures are in place to keep nurses safe—both indoors and outdoors?
- 7** Are part time nurses and their families provided with health insurance? Is disability insurance provided? Are light-duty positions offered to nurses injured at work?
- 8** Do you provide annual fit testing for respiratory protection? Are negative pressure rooms used? Do you provide hospital-laundered scrubs?
- 9** Has the facility eliminated shift rotations? Is overtime voluntary? Is there self-scheduling? Do nurses get to take uninterrupted rest breaks?
- 10** Is there a staffing and acuity system in place to ensure safe staffing for the nurses and the patients?