



## Bargaining Update

# Missed Break?

March 2, 2010

Our Bargaining Team has made several tentative agreements with Barlow management over the first few negotiating sessions. However, management says there is no way to give us all the breaks we need and to which we are entitled. We are asking the hospital to schedule adequate employees so that breaks can be taken without interruption.

Management does not believe there is a problem. In order to show management that additional staff is needed to cover work during employee breaks, make sure to fill out an SEIU Local 121RN "Patient Safety Reporting Form" and the hospital's missed meal and break form every time you do not receive a 15-minute break or 30-minute meal period, or when you are called away from your break to assist patients or other staff.

When you do not receive a 15-minute break and/or your 30-minute meal period, management must pay you for an additional hour of work, up to two hours per day.

Go to the Barlow page at [www.seiu121m.org](http://www.seiu121m.org) to print the "Patient Safety Reporting Form."

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"We should be completely relieved of work responsibilities during our breaks. We work very hard and need to rest. Patients' health and lives are at stake. We can't afford to make a mistake because we have not been able to rest."

**Maria Somoza**  
Registered Nurse



"I am typically called off break two or three times to take care of ventilator alarms, patient family

issues, phone calls, doctor requests and ancillary service requests such as PT, OT, speech or dietary. And, it's very common for me not to take a break until 2 or 3 in the afternoon — eight hours into my shift because I have no relief and can't find time."

**Rafael Sandoval**  
Respiratory Therapist

"There are not enough employees, especially at satellite locations, to cover breaks. By law, we are supposed to have a break every four hours."

**Parin Upadhyay**  
Monitor Technician

