

**Hi, Fred Nelson for Community Comment,**

**For the past number of months, I have been involved with local personnel in the medical field as a patient, a husband of a patient, a brother-in-law of a patient and as a father of a patient. I have made a few observations. There is a lot of pro and con about the local medical community. Recently the news covered the possibility of a nurse's strike with the nurses asking for better working conditions due to a shortage of staffing on each shift leading to over worked nurses with few or no breaks. I found that the nurses were over worked with no complaints to me or anyone in the family (as it should be). I admired the caring attitude of the staff in general and had only one complaint which was remedied immediately by the charge nurse. My brother-in-law was airlifted out of the area as it was deemed that due to his condition, he could not receive the level of care needed locally. Once he was stabilized (over two weeks), he was returned to Eureka but had to be sent out of the area again within a week to receive the needed rehabilitation for his type of illness. As you have probably heard there is a critical shortage of personnel in the local skilled nursing facilities. Most of us know that Humboldt County has a shortage of both doctors and nurses and there are many attempts by our local leaders to alleviate the situation. I thank them for that. I must proudly say that my brother-in-law's family was kept up to date by two of our local surgeons but the family never did see the doctor or doctors involved in the first hospital that he was sent to for a near three week period. It is not much better where he is located now. What really irks me is how the hospitals treat a holiday or weekend. When it was decided to send my brother-in-law to another location for rehabilitation, one of the local surgeons told the family how important it was to send him out of the area as soon as possible so rehab could start at once, the longer the delay, the more difficult the recovery. I could not agree more. So, what happens? A weekend and a holiday are upon us and the hospital does not see fit to move him for three days. This type of incident has bothered me for years. No matter what type of excuses you might have for not moving the patient, illness does not take a holiday so my brother-in-law lost three days of needed rehabilitation. Events like this lead me to questions such as why do hospitals take long weekends and illness does not? How much of this is caused by the employee unions? How much of this is caused by health insurance companies and 'Obama Care'? How much of this is caused by the hospital administrators? Think about it.**

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