## **Transition-to-practice programs**

(Also called residency or on-boarding programs and widely recognized as an important tool to help new nurses make the transition into the nursing workforce.)

- 15. Describe how your organization supports nurses in their transition into practice.

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Health and safety care environment

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NOTES -

# **Keeping nurses healthy**

18 QUESTIONS

## You should ask about a nurse's workplace

Healthy work environments are imperative to ensure patient and nurse safety, enhance staff recruitment and retention, and maintain an organization's financial viability. Whether you are a new applicant, currently employed, or employ nurses there are many questions you should consider asking.

WASHINGTON STATE NURSES ASSOCIATION

# **Health and safety environment**

1.	Describe your Health and Safety Committee
	Does each nursing team/unit have a front-line nurse representative on the committee? □ Yes □ No
	Are the nurses consistently provided coverage to attend?  \Box Yes \Box No
2.	What are your policies around shifts and safe staffing
	Has the facility eliminated shift rotations? · · · · · · □ Yes □ No Is overtime voluntary? · · · · · □ Yes □ No
	Is there self-scheduling? Ves D No
	-
	How are nurses ensured uninterrupted rest breaks? Is there an acuity system in place to ensure safe staffing
	for the nurses and the patients? D Yes D No
3.	How do you ensure safety with patient handling to prevent injuries to nurses?
	Do you have a no manual lift policy? □ Yes □ No
	Do you have lift assist devices available? □ Yes □ No
4.	How do you reduce the risk of needlesticks and bloodborne pathogen exposure?
	Do you have needleless IV systems and needles/sharps with built-in safety devices? □ Yes □ No
	Are disposal containers easily accessible at the point of care? $\Box$ Yes $\Box$ No
	Is post-exposure treatment and counseling provided within 2 hours of a bloodborne pathogen exposure? □ Yes □ No
5.	How do you reduce exposure to irritants and allergens?
	Is this facility latex-free? $\hfill \label{eq:stable}$ Is this facility latex-free? $\hfill \label{eq:stable}$ No
6.	Do you use safe alternatives to cleaning chemicals, disinfectants and pesticides? □ Yes □ No
	Is the indoor air quality routinely checked? $\hfill \hfill \hfi$
	Is there a process in place for resolving air quality issues that are identified? ↓ Yes □ No
7.	What policies and tools are in place to reduce exposure to hazardous drugs?
	Do you provide annual hazardous drugs and neoplastics training for nurses? I Yes I No
8.	Describe your policies and support services in place for nurses who experience stressful events such as workplace violence, bullyingor the death of a patient.
	What security measures are in place to keep nurses safe—both indoors and outdoors?
	Which law enforcement agency has jurisdiction over incidents occurring in this facility?
	Are light-duty positions available for nurses injured at work? $\Box$ Yes $\Box$ No
9.	How do you protect nurses from infectious disease exposure?
	Do you provide annual fit testing for respirators? $\Box$ Yes $\ \Box$ No
	Do you provide annual training in donning and doffing respirators? ····· □ Yes □ No
	Do you provide training in the use of other PPE? $\hfill\square$ Yes $\hfill\square$ No
	Are negative pressure rooms used? $\hfill \hfill \$
	Do you provide hospital-laundered scrubs? □ Yes □ No

#### **Culture of patient safety and quality**

# 10. Describe how your organization's mission and vision statements support an environment of a just culture. What is the role of the nurse in ensuring quality outcomes for the unit/site, department and organization? How does this organization monitor and review staffing in relation to patient care needs? How does the organization optimize learning opportunities after adverse events or near misses? Is a root cause analysis conducted with every adverse event? 11. Describe ways your organization promotes a culture of safety and the strategies you use

Describe the components of your patient safety program.

- 12. Does your organization teach and encourage nurses and interdisciplinary team members use of the SBAR (Situation, Background, Assessment and Recommendation) tool to promote effective communication? □ Yes □ No
- 13.. How does your organization address Quality Safety Education for Nurses (QSEN)?
- 14. How is nurse safety prioritized in your facility?