

Adventist Health Bakersfield Unmonitored Patient Death

In a case at the Adventist Health Bakersfield hospital in California, an ICU nurse with two assigned patients had not been trained to use the 'in-room monitor' to see both patients vital signs while in one of the patient's (private) rooms. In addition, the hospital had not staffed a full-time monitor nurse/tech to continuously monitor all the patients at the nurse's station. Thus, there was no monitor to alert bedside nurses of unstable vital signs.

Blood pressure was taken every 15 minutes. At 5:45 PM, while the nurse was working with a patient in one room, the patient in the other room had blood pressure fall to 75/68. One hour later, at 6:45 PM, the BP was again at 75/68. At 6:45 the patient was discovered pulseless and not breathing. A code was called, and the patient was intubated. The patient died the next morning at 9:40 AM.