



UNAC/UHCP NURSE - PATIENT RATIOS FOR HOSPITALS

DEPARTMENT OF CALIFORNIA HEALTH SERVICES

HOSPITAL UNIT

CRITICAL CARE I ICU	1:2	
NEONATAL ICU	1:2 RN only	
PRENATAL SERVICES		
Labor & Delivery	1:2 (in active labor)	
Antepartum	1:4 (not in active labor)	
Postpartum	1:6 (mothers)	
Couplet Care	1:4 (couplets)	
Well-Baby Nursery	1:8	
POST ANESTHESIA (PACU)		
EMERGENCY DEPARTMENT*	1:4	*
Trauma	1:1 RN only	
Critical Care Patients	1:2	
OPERATING ROOM		
PEDIATRICS		
STEPDOWN		
TELEMETRY		
SPECIAL CARE UNIT (ie, ONCOLOGY)		
MEDICAL I SURGICAL		
PSYCHIATRY		

*There shall be no fewer than two licensed nurses physically present in the department when a patient is present. At least one of the licensed nurses shall be a registered nurse assigned to triage patients. The registered nurse assigned to triage patients shall be immediately available at all times to triage patients when they arrive in the emergency department. When there are no patients needing triage, the registered nurse may assist by performing other nursing tasks. The registered nurse assigned to triage patients shall not be counted in the licensed nurse-to-patient ratio.

- The licensed nurse to patient ratios is only one aspect of determining the staffing needs of the specifies units.
- The current regulations in 22CCR 70053.2 and 702117(b) to (q), requiring hospitals to have a system to determine the nursing care needs based on the individual patient care needs, are still in place. The Patient Classification System will be used to increase staffing as patient acuity increases as well as determining the skill mix (licensed nursing staff to unlicensed staff).
- Ratios shall be maintained at all times including meals and break periods.

If you have a concern or question regarding the staffing on your unit, **contact your Affiliate Officers or the UNAC/UHCP Staff Representatives at 800-762-5874.**