



## minimum NURSE-TO-PATIENT RATIO

### CRITICAL CARE: ADULT HIGH ACUITY UNIT (HAU) DEFINITION

Approved by Ministry of Health: March 2024

#### PREAMBLE STATEMENT

B.C.'s minimum nurse-to-patient ratios (mNPR) are grounded in a commitment to continuous improvement and ongoing learning, prioritizing the well-being of nurses and patients. As these ratios are implemented, we will engage in continuous improvement cycles to better understand their impact on nursing outcomes and patient care. This will enable us to make informed adjustments, ensuring that we meet the needs of nurses and patients effectively.

#### DEFINITION –Adult high acuity unit refers to:

- a multi-day inpatient unit which is organized, operated, and maintained to provide specialized care for patients who:
  - (i) have complex, life threatening medical problems requiring urgent and intensive treatment using life support technologies and interprofessional collaboration among clinicians; and
  - (ii) meet Level 1 of Adult Critical Care

#### RATIO – 1:2

#### GUIDELINES

Level 1 refers to patients who require closer observation (Q4hr VS), than is available in an acute ward, with one system risk / monitoring. Patients may require non invasive ventilation (NIV) to prevent deterioration, when expected resolution is within 24 hours. Patients may require long term ventilation / weaning but are stable otherwise and have an established respiratory rehabilitation plan. Patients may require telemetry or mobility / rehabilitation initiation, post-operative monitoring, or stable wound management with a care plan.