



minimum NURSE-TO-PATIENT RATIO

CRITICAL CARE: PEDIATRIC 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 – Pediatric high acuity unit refers to:

a) a multi-day inpatient unit which is organized, operated, and maintained to provide specialized care for pediatric 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 Pediatric Critical Care

RATIO – 1:2

GUIDELINES

The Levels of Pediatric Critical Care refers to the patient care needs and should be aligned to the right service available. Level 1 refers to pediatric patients who require closer observation and monitoring than is usually available in a general children's ward. For example, the child may need support from one organ system (excluding invasive ventilation), minor trauma, continuous heart rate or invasive blood pressure and respiratory monitoring, advanced analgesic techniques, or hemodynamic support (e.g., vasoactive infusions). Level 1 patients are at an increased risk of deteriorating to a level two or three care need.