



minimum NURSE-TO-PATIENT RATIO

ADULT FOCUSED (SPECIALTY) CARE UNIT 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 focused care unit refers to:

- a) a multi-day inpatient unit which is organized, operated, and maintained to provide care for:
 - (i) a specific medical condition; and/or
 - (ii) a specific patient population.
- b) Services provided in these units are more specialized to meet the complex acute and chronic needs of patients with the specific condition or disease process than that which is required on medical/surgical units.

RATIO – 1:3

GUIDELINES

Units **included** within this definition include but are not limited to: acute stroke, coronary care, cardiac telemetry, hematology, oncology, renal (dialysis), complex medical care, transplant, and neurosurgery.

Units **excluded** from this definition include but are not limited to: labour, birth, & post-birth care, perioperative areas (i.e. operating room, post-anesthesia care/recovery unit), intermediate care/step-down, intensive care (ICUs), cardiac ICU, inpatient psychiatric, and alternate level of care (ALC).