



minimum NURSE-TO-PATIENT RATIO

MEDICAL / SURGICAL UNIT DEFINITION

Approved by Ministry of Health: November 3, 2023

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 – General adult medical or surgical unit (Med/Surg) refers to:

- a multi-day inpatient unit in which either of the following are cared for:
 - (i) patients with an acute or chronic illness or an injury; and/or
 - (ii) patients pre-operative and/or recovering from (surgery) surgical intervention; or
- a short stay (*observation*) patient care area

RATIO – 1:4

GUIDELINES

INCLUDED	EXCLUDED
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Observation Areas: ED Admitted Patients	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Monitored beds (telemetry/coronary)• Critical Care (adult, neonatal, psychiatry)• <u>Specialty Unit</u> (higher level of care but not critical care)• Maternity• Emergency• Psychiatry Inpatient• Rehabilitation• Designated Alternative Level of Care Units• Surgical Services (OR, PARR)• Ambulatory Units• Roving Nursing Teams• Surgical Day Care• Palliative