



## minimum NURSE-TO-PATIENT RATIO

### PEDIATRIC MEDICAL / SURGICAL 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 – General pediatric medical or surgical unit refers to:

- a multi-day inpatient unit which is organized, operated, and maintained to:
  - (i) deliver comprehensive, interdisciplinary, family-centred, age specific, pediatric care for infants, children, and youth newly admitted up to their 17<sup>th</sup> birthday (16 years + 364 days) and receiving ongoing care up to their 19<sup>th</sup> birthday (18 years + 364 days);
    - a. Patients up to their 19<sup>th</sup> birthday may be newly admitted to the pediatric service if essential for their medical care.
  - (ii) diagnose and provide treatment for pediatric patients with a broad range of low to medium acuity/complexity medical conditions (including psychosocial issues) that require hospitalization, stabilizing and referring/transferring, as necessary

**RATIO – 1:4**