



minimum NURSE-TO-PATIENT RATIO

OPERATING ROOM DEFINITION

Approved by Ministry of Health: July 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 –Operating Room refers to:

- A surgical suite in a health care facility properly equipped and staffed to perform surgical procedures, requiring anesthesia.

RATIO

2.5 per surgical suite (minimum 2 nurses per procedure)

GUIDELINES

As per the 2023 [ORNAC](#) Standards, surgical procedures shall be staffed by a minimum of 2 [two] perioperative nursing professionals, one of whom must be a perioperative Registered Nurse [RN]. When only one perioperative RN is present during the surgical procedure, a second perioperative RN shall be in the surgical suite and immediately available to respond.

The ratio of 2.5 nurses per surgical suite exceeds the ORNAC Standard of 2 nurses per procedure. The additional 0.5 nurse acts as a float nurse able to leave the surgical suite to support OR efficiencies and provide break cover for the team. Therefore, the ratio of 2.5 nurses per surgical suite is inclusive of break relief.

Excluded: Operating rooms conducting procedures when a patient walks in and out of the operating room unassisted.