



minimum NURSE-TO-PATIENT RATIO

PALLIATIVE 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 – Palliative care unit refers to:

- A multi-day inpatient unit which is organized, operated, and maintained to provide complex pain and symptom management, complex discharge planning, and/or emotional, social, practical, spiritual, grief, and bereavement support and care for people living with acute or advanced life-limiting illness and for people at the end of life, family, friends and others affected by someone's life-limiting illness or death.

RATIO – 1:3

GUIDELINES

This definition applies to inpatient palliative care units, and is distinct from community-based hospice care.