



## minimum NURSE-TO-PATIENT RATIO

### POST ANESTHESIA CARE UNIT 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 –Post-Anesthesia Care Unit or Post-Anesthesia Recovery Room refers to:

- A unit which is organized, operated, and maintained to provide short term care to patients immediately following operative or invasive procedures with administration of anesthesia, analgesia, sedation and/or any surgical procedure.

#### RATIO

- 2:1 (critically ill/unstable patient, combative patient or patient whose status has regressed to a life-threatening state)
- 1:1 (patient who requires mechanical ventilation, patient who displays respiratory distress, patient with uncontrolled pain, critically ill/stable patient, patient who is eight (8) years of age or younger without family or competent support staff present, patient requiring isolation precautions until there is sufficient time for donning and removing PPE and hand washing between patient)
- 1:2 (two conscious patients stable and free of complications or two patients of eight (8) years of age and younger who are stable with family or competent support staff present for both patients - in addition to the assigned PeriAnesthesia Nurse)

#### GUIDELINES

As per the 2023 [NAPAN](#) Standards, these ratios apply to patients in Phase I recovery.

**Off-Service Patients** - In circumstances involving off-service patients, please refer to the Implementation Guide for further information.