

2008 Hospital Report Card Nurse Staffing Data

Nursing Care Hours per Patient Day: Technical Guide

This technical guide was developed to provide more detail about Vermont's public reporting of Nursing Care Hours Per Patient Day (NHPPD).

Nursing care hours per patient day refers to the number of nursing care hours relative to the patient workload. This measure was developed by the American Nurses Association for the National Database of Nursing Quality Indicators (NDNQI[®]). It is also endorsed by the National Quality Forum in "National Voluntary Consensus Standards for Nursing-Sensitive Care: A Limited Performance Measure Set" (2004).

The following nurse staffing indicators are used in the NDNQI[®] measure:

- 1) Total nursing care hours per patient day (this includes registered nurses, licensed practical nurses, licensed nurse aides, and mental health technicians)
- 2) RN nursing care hours per patient day
- 3) Percent of total nursing care hours provided by RNs

Methodology

Nursing care hours (numerator) – The number of *productive* hours worked by nursing staff assigned to the unit who have *direct patient care responsibilities* for greater than 50% of their shift.

Includes:

- staff who are counted in the unit's staffing matrix, *and*
- who are replaced if they call in sick, *and*
- whose hours are charged to the unit's cost center

Productive Hours: Actual direct hours worked, not budgeted or scheduled hours. Excludes vacation, sick time, orientation, education leave, or committee time. Orientation time is considered non-productive. Similarly, graduate nurses (RN Applicants) who participate in the VT Nurse Internship Program should not be counted. However, orientation programs vary from hospital to hospital. Orientee or graduate nurse hours should be counted as productive when the nurses reach the point where they are considered part of the staffing matrix, their work hours are charged to the unit, and they would be replaced if they call in sick.

Direct Patient Care Responsibilities: Patient-centered nursing activities by unit-based staff in the presence of the patient, and activities that occur away from the patient that are patient-related, including:

- Medication administration
- Nursing treatments
- Nursing rounds
- Admission, transfer, discharge activities
- Patient teaching
- Patient communication

- Coordination of patient care
- Documentation
- Treatment planning

Nursing care hours are reported for each month for registered nurses (RNs), licensed practical nurses and licensed vocational nurses (LPNs/LVNs), and unlicensed assistive personnel (UAP; includes licensed nursing assistants). For hospitals reporting staffing for psychiatric units, staffing hours for mental health technicians (MHT) are included with UAP hours. This is consistent with NDNQI[®] reporting.

Patient days (denominator) – The NDNQI[®] method chosen for reporting patient days is ***Method 5***.

Method 5 - Patient Days from Multiple Census Reports: Facilities collect patient censuses multiple times per day. These patient censuses are then averaged to get the daily average census. A sum of the daily average censuses is then calculated to determine patient days for the month on the unit.

Source: Reprinted from the American Nurses Association (ANA) NDNQI[®] Guidelines for its Nursing Care Hours Per Patient Day indicator (NHPPD). Copyright ANA, All Rights Reserved, 2007.