

Appendix I Worksheet

Recommended Registered Nurse/Patient Ratio for Perinatal Care Services¹

Staffing parameters should be clearly delineated in a policy that reflects (a) staff mix and ability levels; (b) patient census, intensity, and acuity; and (c) plans for delegation of selected, clearly defined tasks to competent assistive personnel. It is an expectation that allocation of personnel provides for safe care of all patients in a setting where census and acuity are dynamic.

Care Provided	My Facility
Intrapartum:	
1:2 patients in labor	
1:1 patients in second stage labor	
1:1 patients with medical or obstetric complications	
1:2 induction or augmentation of labor	
1:1 coverage for initiating epidural anesthesia	
1:1 circulation for cesarean delivery	
Antepartum/postpartum	
1:6 patients without complications	
1:2 patients in post-op recovery	
1:3 antepartum/postpartum patients with complications but in stable condition	
1:4 newborns less than four hours old and those requiring close observation and neonates	
1:3-4 normal mother-baby couplet care	
Newborns	
1:6-8 neonates requiring only routine care*	
1:4 recently born neonates and those requiring close observation	
1:3-4 neonates requiring continuing care	
1:2-3 neonates requiring intermediate care	
1:1-2 neonates requiring intensive care	
1:1 neonates requiring multisystem support	
1:1 or greater unstable neonates requiring complex critical care	

This ratio reflects traditional well newborn nursery care. If it is necessary to separate the well mother and newborn couple, and return the newborn to a central nursery, the mother-newborn registered nurse is still responsible for the mother-newborn couple. Another registered nurse would provide care for the newborn in the central nursery.

At least one registered nurse should be available at all times in each occupied basic care nursery when newborns are physically present in the nursery. In specialty care and subspecialty care nurseries, a minimum of two registered nurses, with training and expertise in neonatal nursing, should be in immediate attendance². Direct care of newborns in the nursery may be provided by ancillary personnel under the registered nurse's immediate supervision. Adequate staff is needed to respond to acute and emergency situations at all times.

¹ *Guidelines for Perinatal Care*, Sixth Edition, 2007, p.29

² National Association of Neonatal Nurses. Minimum staffing in NICUs. NANN Position Statement 3009. Glenville IL: NANN 1999, revised 2008. Available at http://www.nann.org/pdf/08_3009_rev.pdf Retrieved May 21, 2009.