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HOUSE BILL 321

50TH LEGISLATURE - STATE OF NEW MEXICO - SECOND SESSION, 2012

INTRODUCED BY

Brian F. Egolf

AN ACT

RELATING TO HEALTH CARE; PROVIDING STANDARDS FOR NURSE-TO-PATIENT RATIOS; PROVIDING FOR REVIEW OF THOSE STANDARDS; MAKING AN APPROPRIATION.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF NEW MEXICO:

SECTION 1. DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH--STANDARDS FOR NURSE-TO-PATIENT RATIOS--PROVIDING FOR ANNUAL REVIEW OF STANDARDS.--

A. Based on the patient's acuity, a hospital in New Mexico shall adopt and implement standards of nurse-to-patient ratios that are no less than:

<u>Hospital Unit</u>	<u>Nurse-to-Patient Ratio</u>
Behavioral Health and Psychiatric Units	1 to 6
Emergency Departments	1 to 4
Triage - Registered Nurses only	1 to 1
Paramedic Base Station Radio -	

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1	Registered Nurse only	1 to 1
2	Trauma	1 to 1
3	Critical Care Patients	1 to 2
4	General Medical Surgical Floor	1 to 4
5	Intensive Care Unit or Critical Care Unit	1 to 2
6	Labor and Delivery	1 to 2
7	Antepartum - not active labor	1 to 4
8	Postpartum - mothers	1 to 6
9	Couplets - mothers and babies	1 to 4
10	Combined labor and delivery	1 to 3
11	Mixed Units	1 to 6
12	Neonatal Intensive Care - Registered	
13	Nurse only	1 to 2
14	Operating Room	1 to 1
15	Pediatrics	1 to 4
16	Post Anesthetic Recovery Room	1 to 2
17	Specialty Care - Dialysis and Oncology	1 to 4
18	Step Down Unit	1 to 4
19	Telemetry Unit	1 to 4
20	Well-Baby Nursery	1 to 8.
21	B. The department of health shall monitor all	
22	hospitals in the state to determine if each hospital is	
23	conforming to the minimum standard of nurse-to-patient ratios.	
24	At minimum, the department shall require all hospitals to	
25	submit the nurse-to-patient ratio of each department as stated	

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1 in Subsection A of this section at the hospital.

2 C. Annually, before July 1 of each year, the
3 department of health shall review the nurse-to-patient ratios
4 in a public meeting and receive input on changes needed to the
5 nurse-to-patient ratios from hospitals, patients, nurses and
6 other stakeholders in the effort to provide improved health
7 care to New Mexicans and others who are patients in New
8 Mexico's hospitals. Stakeholder groups that the department may
9 contact are the:

- 10 (1) American association of critical-care
11 nurses;
- 12 (2) association of perioperative registered
13 nurses;
- 14 (3) oncology nursing society;
- 15 (4) emergency nurses association;
- 16 (5) association of women's health, obstetric
17 and neonatal nurses;
- 18 (6) American psychiatric nurses association;
- 19 (7) American association of neuroscience
20 nurses;
- 21 (8) society of gastroenterology nurses and
22 associates, inc;
- 23 (9) American society of perianesthesia nurses;
- 24 and
- 25 (10) hospitals in New Mexico.

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