

44:04:06:08. Nursing service staffing for hospitals. All hospitals must maintain a sufficient number of registered nurses and other qualified nursing personnel on duty at all times to provide supervision of and nursing care for all patients. A registered nurse must be designated as charge nurse for each nursing care unit at all times except that a critical access hospital is required to staff with a registered nurse only when there are acute care patients present. A critical access hospital is required to staff with a licensed nurse when there are only swing bed patients present. Written staffing patterns must be developed for each patient care unit, including surgical and obstetrical suites, emergency services, special care units, and other services. Registered nurses must be in charge of the operating room, function as supervisory nurse in the operating room, be in attendance at all deliveries of obstetrical patients, supervise obstetrical nursing service, and supervise the nursing care of newborn infants.

Source: SL 1975, ch 16, § 1; 6 SDR 93, effective July 1, 1980; 14 SDR 81, effective December 10, 1987; 22 SDR 70, effective November 19, 1995; 26 SDR 96, effective January 23, 2000.

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