

National Perspective on Nurse Staffing

American Hospital Association

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AHA and ASHHRA (American Society of Healthcare Human Resource Administrators) oppose establishment of staffing ratios at the federal level. Earlier this year, the ANA invited AHA to a forum to discuss requiring imposition of federal staffing ratios. The conclusion of AHA is that staffing decisions are extremely complex and depend on a number of variables including the education level of the nurse, ancillary staff available to help care for the patient, the acuity of the patient's illness, technology available, etc. Therefore, the application of a "cookie cutter approach" at the federal level is inappropriate. Our goal is to get the right level of care to the patient in the most appropriate care setting.