

## What is our purpose?

The nurse staffing law was created to ensure that every hospitalized Oregonian receives safe patient care in acute care hospitals, defined as "...nursing care that is provided appropriately, in a timely manner and meets the patients' health care needs." The process to achieve safe patient care is timely, effective and efficient nurse staffing.

The Oregon Nurse Staffing Collaborative was formed to provide a safe table where nurses share best practices, evaluate staffing challenges and opportunities, and create new methods of nurse staffing that strengthen the partnership between nurses, patients and families and other health care team members.

## Value Added Collaboration

The ONSC initially formed to understand and then come to agreement on various proposals for the rule language of the Oregon Nurse Staffing Law. Members of the group provided testimony during the rule making process in 2006. Those who participated then realized that working together for a significant time had resulted in a collaborative environment that benefitted everyone and thus, the ONSC was formed.

Since then, the collaborative has expanded its work to include education about nurse staffing via webinars and conferences, to establish a consultation role within and outside of the group, and develop frequent exploration of ideas about nurse staffing as a creative think tank. This approach has become the value added element of the ONSC.

## What has been created?

- Nurse Staffing Repository and library
- A webcast series on the nurse staffing law, growing and maintaining a staffing committee
- Informational packets about the nurse staffing law for nurses new to the state
- All-day educational conference on nurse staffing
- Consultation
- Nurse staffing surveys
- Collaboration with regulatory colleagues
- Relationships with legislators
- Development of innovative nurse staffing strategies.

## Did you know?

A hospital-wide nurse staffing committee must include at least one direct care RN from each hospital specialty to be selected by the direct care RNs.

Time spent attending hospital-mandated meetings and hospital-mandated education and/or training must be included as hours worked.



## Resources

There are practice, regulatory and consultative resources that you can access regarding the Oregon Nurse Staffing Law.

### Practice Resources

Staffing resource information and additional information about the ONSC can be found at

<http://www.oahhs.org/quality/nurse-staffing.html>  
and at [www.oregonrn.org](http://www.oregonrn.org)

### Regulatory Resources

To access the Oregon Nurse Staffing Law, there are two documents you should review. Go to [arcweb.sos.state.or.us/pages/rules/index.html](http://arcweb.sos.state.or.us/pages/rules/index.html) and search for OAR number 333-510-0045; this will take you to Patient Care and Nursing Services. Searching for OAR number 333-501-0005 will take you to Division 501 which deals with hospital monitoring, surveys, investigations and penalties.

## Consultation Services

The Oregon Nurse Staffing Collaborative meets every month; during each quarter, three of the meetings are conference calls, and the fourth meeting is face to face, the site alternating between the OAHHS and ONA offices.

For further information on these meetings, and upcoming meetings, check on the OAHHS website. These are meetings in which topic-focused discussions take place, problems are analyzed, and conversations with regulatory colleagues occur.



For questions about the ONSC or the Oregon Nurse Staffing Law, please contact:

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The Oregon Nurse Staffing Collaborative, formed in 2007, is a group of direct care and administrative nurses in Oregon that focuses on implementation of Oregon's Nurse Staffing Law. The group has developed educational materials, offers webinars, conferences and consultation to acute care hospital nurse staffing committees in the state.