

Jonathan Rosenfeld's Nursing Homes Abuse Blog

Posted on January 25, 2010 by [Jonathan Rosenfeld](#)

[Are Nursing Homes Required To Have Certain Numbers Of Staff?](#)

"Are nursing homes required to have certain numbers of staff"

-Edward, Highland Park, IL

Illinois does not require a specific staff to patient ratio for Illinois nursing home facilities. The responsibility lies on each facility to determine the staffing needs to meet the needs of its residents. ([Section 300.1230 – Staffing](#)) The Administrative Code requires that a sufficient number of staff remain on duty for all hours of the day to provide services that meet the total needs of the residents. ([Administrative Code Part 300 – Skilled Nursing and Intermediate Care Facilities Code](#))

Staffing is based on the needs of the residents and is determined by determining the number of hours of nursing time each resident needs on each shift of the day. This determination must be made separately for both licensed and unlicensed nursing personnel. The number and categories of personnel that should be provided is based on:

- Number of residents
- Amount and kind of care required to meet the needs of all residents at all times
- Size, physical condition, and layout of building including proximity to resident rooms
- Medical orders ([Section 300.1230 – Staffing](#))

The Skilled Nursing and Intermediate Care Facilities Code provides examples for how to [compute staffing needs](#) for a 100 bed Skilled Nursing Facility, based on the considerations listed above (see [Resources](#) below).

The facility must provide the necessary care and services to attain or maintain the highest level of physical, mental, and psychological well-being of the residents. ([Section 300.1210 – General Requirements for Nursing and Personal Care](#))

Each facility must have a director of nursing services (DON) who is a registered nurse and is a full-time employee on duty a minimum of 36 hours, four days a week, with at least 50% of their hours scheduled between 7 A.M. and 7 P.M. In facilities with 100 or more occupied beds, there must also be an assistant director of nursing (ADON), on duty a minimum of 36 hours, four days a week. For all shifts, there must be a licensed nurse designated as being in charge of nursing services when neither the DON nor the ADON are on duty. The facility must also have a minimum of one staff member awake and ready at all times.

Jonathan Rosenfeld represents victims of nursing home abuse and neglect throughout the country. For more information please visit Nursing Homes Abuse Blog (www.nursinghomesabuseblog.com), Bed Sore FAQ (www.bedsorefaq.com) or call Jonathan directly at (888) 424-5757.

Resources:

Illinois Nursing Home Care Act

Administrative Code – Part 300 – Skilled Nursing and Intermediate Care Facilities Code

Section 300.1210 – General Requirements for Nursing and Personal Care

Section 300.1230 – Staffing – (p) – Example of Staffing Calculations

A) Total Minimum Hours of Care Needed

Level of Care	# of Residents		Total Hrs. Needed/Day Per Resident		Total Hrs. Needed/Day Per Facility
Skilled	25	[times]	2.5	=	62.5
General ICF	50	[times]	1.7	=	85.0
Light ICF	25	[times]	1.0	=	25.0
					<hr/>
Total hours needed					172.5

B) Minimum Total Hours Needed Per Shift

Shift	Total Hrs. Per Day		Minimum Percent	Total Hrs. Needed	
7-3	172.5	[times]	45%	77.6	
3-11	172.5	[times]	35%	60.4	
11-7	172.5	[times]	20%	34.5	
					<hr/>
			100%	172.5	

C) Licensed Nurse Coverage

Shift	Minimum Hrs. Per Shift		Minimum Percent	Minimum Nurse Hours Required
7-3	77.6	[times]	20%	15.5
3-11	60.4	[times]	20%	12.1
11-7	34.5	[times]	20%	6.9

Jonathan Rosenfeld represents victims of nursing home abuse and neglect throughout the country. For more information please visit Nursing Homes Abuse Blog (www.nursinghomesabuseblog.com), Bed Sore FAQ (www.bedsorefaq.com) or call Jonathan directly at (888) 424-5757.

D) Licensed Nurses Required

Shift	Minimum Nurse Hrs. Required		Hrs. Worked Per Shift	=	# of Nurses Needed
7-3	15.5	[divided by]	8	=	1.93 (2)
3-11	12.1	[divided by]	8	=	1.51 (1.5)
11-7	6.9	[divided by]	8	=	0.86 (1)

E) Nurse Aide/Orderly Coverage

Shift	Minimum Nurse Hrs. Required		Hrs. Worked Per Shift	=	# of Nurses Needed
7-3	77.6	[minus]	15.6	=	62.1
3-11	60.4	[minus]	12.1	=	48.3
11-7	34.5	[minus]	6.9	=	27.6

F) Nurse Aides/Orderlies Required

Related Nursing Homes Abuse Blog Entries:

[Nurses Admit To Problems At Nursing Homes](#)

[High Staff Turnover Rates Plague Most Nursing Homes](#)

[A Recipe For Danger: Nursing Shortage Could Reach 1M By 2020](#)