

**Revised Cost Estimates of Minimum Nurse-to-Patient Ratio Proposals**  
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These tables provide impact estimates of the newly announced minimum nurse-to-patient ratios, which will be implemented in 2003. Estimates for the follow-up ratios (1:5 medical-surgical) also are included. The figures are calculated using data from the California Office of Statewide Health Planning and Development for the 1999-2000 fiscal year.

The cost calculations presented here make a few assumptions and have some limitations:

- 1) Both RNs and LVNs are included in the nurse-to-patient ratios
- 2) Hospitals will continue to use registry nurses in the same numbers as 1999-2000
- 3) Newly hired nurses will be RN regular employees (not registry nurses or LVNs)
- 4) Wages of RNs do not change from their 1999-2000 levels
- 5) The costs of employee benefits and employment taxes are not included
- 6) Emergency rooms and operating rooms are not included because the Office of Statewide Health Planning and Development does not report data for these units that can be used for these calculations.

These numbers are only estimates and the final costs are likely to be different from these estimates.

**Table 1**

Share of Hospitals That Are Not in Compliance With Proposed Minimum Staffing Ratios (1:6 medical-surgical), by Unit

Source: OSHPD data

| Unit                   | Initial ratios | Final ratios |
|------------------------|----------------|--------------|
| Medical-Surgical Acute | 15%            | 36%          |
| Pediatric Acute        | 23%            | 23%          |
| Obstetrics Acute       | 29%            | 29%          |
| Labor and Delivery     | 15%            | 15%          |
| Newborn Nursery        | 30%            | 30%          |
| Other Acute Care       | 38%            | 38%          |
| Definite Observation   | 41%            | 41%          |
| Rehabilitation Care    | 33%            | 54%          |

**Table 2**

Average Predicted Increases in FTE RN Employment Required by Minimum Staffing Proposals (number of FTEs per hospital)

|                      | Initial ratios | Final ratios |
|----------------------|----------------|--------------|
| All Hospitals        | 2.8            | 4.0          |
| Los Angeles CMSA     | 3.9            | 5.9          |
| Sacramento CMSA      | 3.1            | 3.7          |
| San Francisco CMSA   | 2.2            | 2.5          |
| San Diego            | 2.3            | 3.2          |
| Central Valley       | 2.5            | 4.0          |
| Central Coast        | 1.7            | 1.9          |
| N. Sacramento Valley | 0.5            | 0.7          |
| Northern Mountains   | 0.3            | 0.6          |
| Sierra Nevada        | 0.1            | 0.4          |

**Table 3**

Predicted Per-Hospital Increases in Nursing Expenditures per Hospital Caused by Staffing Mandates

|                      | Initial ratios | Final ratios |
|----------------------|----------------|--------------|
| All Hospitals        | \$143,836      | \$217,210    |
| Los Angeles CMSA     | \$196,049      | \$309,797    |
| Sacramento CMSA      | \$146,236      | \$167,960    |
| San Francisco CMSA   | \$131,282      | \$159,457    |
| San Diego            | \$114,865      | \$167,464    |
| Central Valley       | \$122,948      | \$219,217    |
| Central Coast        | \$87,656       | \$105,141    |
| N. Sacramento Valley | \$24,142       | \$33,727     |
| Northern Mountains   | \$12,336       | \$27,446     |
| Sierra Nevada        | \$7,317        | \$19,909     |

**Table 4**

Average Predicted Percent Increases in Nursing Expenditures Caused by Staffing Mandates

|                      | Initial ratios | Final ratios |
|----------------------|----------------|--------------|
| All Hospitals        | 1.0%           | 1.7%         |
| Los Angeles CMSA     | 1.2%           | 2.0%         |
| Sacramento CMSA      | 0.3%           | 0.4%         |
| San Francisco CMSA   | 0.7%           | 0.8%         |
| San Diego            | 0.2%           | 0.3%         |
| Central Valley       | 1.8%           | 3.2%         |
| Central Coast        | 1.8%           | 2.6%         |
| N. Sacramento Valley | 0.3%           | 0.7%         |
| Northern Mountains   | 0.4%           | 1.0%         |
| Sierra Nevada        | 0.6%           | 2.3%         |