19 CSR 30-81.010 General Certification Requirements

...(14) An NF may request a waiver of nurse staffing requirements to the extent the facility is unable to meet the requirements including the areas of twenty-four (24)-hour licensed nurse coverage, the use of a registered nurse for eight (8) consecutive hours seven (7) days per week and the use of a registered nurse as director of nursing.

(A) Requests for waivers shall be made in writing to the director of the Section for Long Term Care.

(B) Requests for waivers will be considered only from facilities licensed under Chapter 198, RSMo as ICFs which do not have a nursing pool agency that is within fifty (50) miles, within state boundaries, and which can supply the needed nursing personnel.

(C) The department shall consider each request for a waiver and shall approve or disapprove the request in writing postmarked within thirty (30) working days of receipt or, if additional information is needed, shall request from the facility the additional information or documentation within ten (10) working days of receipt of the request.

(D) Approval of a nurse waiver request shall be based on an evaluation of whether the facility has been unable, despite diligent efforts—including offering wages at the community prevailing rate for nursing facilities— to recruit the necessary personnel. Diligent effort shall mean prominently advertising for the necessary nursing personnel in a variety of local and out-of-the-area publications, including newspapers and journals within a fifty (50)-mile radius, and which are within state boundaries; contacts with nursing schools in the area; and participation in job fairs. The operator shall submit evidence of the diligent effort including:

1. Copies of newspapers and journal advertisements, correspondence with nursing schools and vocational programs, and any other relevant material;

2. If there is a nursing pool agency within fifty (50) miles which is within state boundaries and the agency cannot consistently supply the necessary personnel on a per diem basis to the facility, the operator shall submit a letter from the agency so stating;

3. Copies of current staffing patterns including the number and type of nursing staff on each shift and the qualifications of licensed nurses;

4. A current Resident Census and Condition of Residents, Form CMS-672 (10/98), incorporated by reference in this rule and available through the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid website: http://www.cms.hhs.gov/forms/, or by mail at: Centers for Medicare and
5. Evidence that the facility has a registered nurse consultant required under 19 CSR 30-85.042 and evidence that the facility has made arrangements to assure registered nurse involvement in the coordination of the assessment process as required under 42 CFR 483.20(3);

6. Location of the nurses' stations and any other pertinent physical feature information the facility chooses to provide;

7. Any other information deemed important by the facility including personnel procedures, promotions, staff orientation and evaluation, scheduling practices, benefit programs, utilization of supplemental agency personnel, physician-nurse collaboration, support services to nursing personnel and the like; and

8. For renewal requests, the information supplied shall show diligent efforts to recruit appropriate personnel throughout the prior waiver period. Updates of prior submitted information in other areas are acceptable.

(E) In order to meet the conditions specified in federal regulation 42 CFR 483.30, the following shall be considered in granting approval:

1. There is assurance that a registered nurse or physician is available to respond immediately to telephone calls from the facility for periods of time in which licensed nursing services are not available;

2. There is assurance that if a facility requesting a waiver has or admits after receiving a waiver any acutely ill or unstable residents requiring skilled nursing care, the skilled care shall be provided in accordance with state licensure rule 19 CSR 30-85.042; and

3. The facility has not received a Class I notice of noncompliance in resident care within one hundred twenty (120) days of the waiver request or the department has not conducted an extended survey in the facility within one (1) year of the waiver request. Any facility which receives a Class I notice of noncompliance in resident care or an extended survey while under waiver status will not have the waiver renewed unless the problem has been corrected and steps have been taken to prevent recurrence. If a facility received more than one (1) Class I notice of noncompliance in resident care during a waiver period, the department will consider revocation of the waiver.

(F) The facility shall cooperate with the department in providing the proper documentation. For renewal requests, the request and proper documentation shall be submitted to the department at least forty-five (45) days prior to the ending date of the current waiver period. If any changes occur during a waiver period that affect the status of the waiver, a letter shall be submitted to the deputy director of institutional services within ten (10) days of the changes. The request for a waiver or renewal of a waiver shall be denied if the facility fails to abide by these previously mentioned time frames.

(G) If a waiver request is denied, the department shall notify the facility in writing and within twenty (20) days, the facility shall submit to the department a written plan for how
the facility will recruit the required personnel. If appropriate personnel are not hired within two (2) months, the department shall initiate enforcement proceedings.


19 CSR 30-85.042 Administration and Resident Care Requirements for New and Existing Intermediate Care and Skilled Nursing Facilities

...(32) Nursing personnel shall be at least eighteen (18) years of age except that a person between the ages of seventeen (17) years of age and eighteen (18) years of age may provide direct resident care if he/she has successfully completed the state-approved nursing assistant course and has been certified with his/her name on the state nursing assistant register. He/she must work under the direct supervision of a licensed nurse and will never be left responsible for a nursing unit. II/III

...(34) All facilities shall employ a director of nursing on a full-time basis who shall be responsible for the quality of patient care and supervision of personnel rendering patient care. II

(35) Licensed Nursing Requirements; Skilled Nursing Facility.

(A) The director of nursing shall be a registered nurse. II

(B) A registered nurse shall be on duty in the facility on the day shift. Either a licensed practical nurse (LPN) or a registered professional nurse (RN) shall be on duty in the facility on both the evening and night shifts. II

(C) A registered nurse shall be on call during the time when only an LPN is on duty. II

(36) Licensed Nursing Requirements; Intermediate Care Facilities.

(A) The director of nursing shall be either an RN or an LPN. II

(B) When the director of nursing is an LPN, an RN shall be employed as consultant a minimum of four (4) hours per week to provide consultation to the administrator and the director of nursing in matters relating to nursing care in the facility. II

(C) An LPN or RN shall be on duty and in the facility on the day shift. II

(D) An LPN or RN shall be on call twenty-four (24) hours a day, seven (7) days a week. I/II
All facilities shall employ nursing personnel in sufficient numbers and with sufficient qualifications to provide nursing and related services which enable each resident to attain or maintain the highest practicable level of physical, mental and psychosocial well-being. Each facility shall have a licensed nurse in charge who is responsible for evaluating the needs of the residents on a daily and continuous basis to ensure there are sufficient, trained staff present to meet those needs. I/II

Nursing personnel shall be on duty at all times on each resident-occupied floor. II

Nursing personnel in any facility with more than twenty (20) residents shall not routinely perform non-nursing duties. II/III

Nursing personnel in facilities with twenty (20) residents or less shall perform non-nursing duties only if acceptable infection control measures are maintained. II/III

Montana