07 AAC 012.275. Nursing and Medical Services.

(a) Except as otherwise specified in this section, a nursing facility must have a registered nurse on duty seven days a week on the day shift and five days a week on the evening shift. A licensed practical nurse must be on duty during all shifts when a registered nurse is not present. A nursing facility must have telephone access to at least one registered nurse at all times and must post the names and phone numbers of those registered nurses at each nurse's station.

(b) A nursing facility with more than 60 occupied beds must have two registered nurses on duty during the day shift and one registered nurse on duty during other shifts.

(c) A nursing facility that shares the same building as a hospital must have a registered nurse on duty in the nursing facility seven days a week on the day shift. On the evening and night shift, a licensed practical nurse may serve as charge nurse. However, an on-duty registered nurse from the hospital must be available to make rounds at the nursing facility and to be otherwise available as needed during the evening and night shifts when a licensed practical nurse is serving as charge nurse. A nursing facility with 14 or fewer occupied beds may use an on-duty registered nurse from the hospital to meet the night shift nursing requirement set out in this subsection.

History - Eff. 11/19/83, Register 88; am 5/28/92, Register 122.
Authority: AS 18.20.010 AS 18.20.060

7 AAC 12.670. Nursing service

(g) Except as provided in (i) of this section for a critical access hospital or 7 AAC 12.275 for a nursing facility, a facility that provides a nursing service must have a registered nurse on duty at all times.

...(i) The department will waive the requirement of (g) of this section for a critical access hospital if the hospital establishes to the department's satisfaction that

(1) to have a registered nurse on duty at all times is not financially feasible for the hospital;

(2) the community served by the hospital was involved in the decision to discontinue having a registered nurse on duty at all times and is aware that the hospital's emergency department may close on occasion;
(3) the hospital’s emergency medical service plan submitted under 7 AAC 12.612(c) (6) assures that a registered nurse will be available at the hospital’s emergency room to receive patients delivered by local emergency services personnel; and

(4) the hospital will have a registered nurse on duty whenever an inpatient is present in the facility.

(j) A frontier extended stay clinic is exempt from the requirements of this section.