

290-5-8-.04 Nursing Service.

(1) A registered nurse shall be employed full time as director of nursing services. She shall not also be the administrator.

(2) The director of nursing services shall normally be employed on the daytime shift and shall devote full time to the administration of the nursing service which includes a reasonable amount of time with all nursing shifts.

(3) The director of nursing services may also serve as the director of nursing services in another facility in close proximity to the home provided she has a registered nurse assistant who is assigned to each facility full time as supervisor of nursing care. The director's assistant shall devote full time to the supervision of nursing care.

(4) There shall be at least one nurse, registered, licensed undergraduate, or licensed practical on duty and in charge of all nursing activities during each eight-hour shift.

(5) There shall be sufficient nursing staff on duty at all times to provide care for each patient according to his needs. A minimum of 2.0 hours of direct nursing care per patient in a 24-hour period must be provided. For every seven (7) total nursing personnel required, there shall be not less than one registered nurse or licensed practical nurse employed. Dining assistants are to be used to supplement, not replace, existing nursing staff requirements and as such are not considered nursing staff and are not to be included in computing the required minimum hours of direct nursing care.

(6) The nursing staff shall be employed for nursing duties only.

(7) There shall be sufficient qualified personnel in attendance at all times to ensure properly supervised nursing services to the patients, including direct supervision of dining assistants in accordance with these rules. This includes staff members dressed, awake and on duty all night.

(8) All nursing care and related services shall be carried out in accordance with the facility's patient care policies. The lines of administrative authority and supervisory responsibility shall be clearly stated. Duties assigned to staff members shall be clearly defined and consistent with their training and experience. Policies and procedures governing nursing care shall be assembled, available and understood by the staff members and shall be the basis for staff education and practice.

(9) An active in-service nursing education program shall be in effect for all nursing personnel. This program shall be developed and conducted by a registered nurse who may be employed part-time and under the direction of the director of nursing services.

(10) The in-service nursing educational program shall be in writing and shall show the frequency of training. Attendance and progress records shall be kept for each person receiving instruction.

Authority O.C.G.A. Sec. 31-7-1 et seq. **History.** Original Rule entitled "Nursing Service" adopted. F. Oct. 26, 1976; eff. Nov. 15, 1976. **Repealed:** New Rule of same title adopted. F. Aug. 19, 2004; eff. Sept. 8, 2004.