

**WAC 388-97-1080 Nursing services.** (1) The nursing home must ensure that a sufficient number of qualified nursing personnel are available on a twenty-four hour basis seven days per week to provide nursing and related services to attain or maintain the highest practicable physical, mental and psychosocial well-being of each resident as determined by resident assessments and individual plans of care.

(2) The nursing home must:

(a) Designate a registered nurse or licensed practical nurse to serve as charge nurse who is accountable for nursing services on each shift; and

(b) Have a full time director of nursing service who is a registered nurse.

(3) Large nonessential community providers must have a registered nurse on duty directly supervising resident care twenty-four hours per day, seven days per week.

(4) The department may permit limited exceptions to subsection (3) of this section if the nursing home can demonstrate good faith effort to hire a registered nurse for the last eight hours of required coverage per day. The department may not grant exceptions for coverage that are less than sixteen hours per day. When considering an exception, the department may consider the following:

(a) Wages and benefits offered by the nursing home; and

(b) The availability of registered nurses in the nursing home's geographical area.

(5) The department may grant a one-year exception that may be renewable for up to three consecutive years.

(6) If a registered nurse is not on-site and readily available to complete full assessments during a shift, the department may limit the admission of new residents based on the resident's medical conditions or complexity during this period only for the particular shift that a registered nurse is not on-site or readily available.

(7) If the department grants an exception for a nursing home, the department must include this information in its nursing home locator.

(8) Essential community providers and small nonessential community providers must have a registered nurse on duty who directly supervises resident care a minimum of sixteen hours per day, seven days per week, and a registered nurse or a licensed practical nurse on duty who directly supervises resident care the remaining eight hours per day, seven days per week.

(9) The nursing home must ensure that staff respond to resident requests for assistance in a manner that promptly meets the resident's quality of life and quality of care needs.

(10) The director of nursing services is responsible for:

(a) Coordinating the plan of care for each resident;

(b) Ensuring that registered nurses and licensed practical nurses comply with chapter 18.79 RCW; and

(c) Ensuring that the nursing care provided is based on the nursing process in accordance with nationally recognized and accepted standards of professional nursing practice.

[Statutory Authority: Chapters 18.51, 74.42, 74.34, 74.46 RCW, 2015 2nd sp.s. c 2, 2015 c 268, and 2016 c 131. WSR 16-23-094, § 388-97-1080, filed 11/16/16, effective 12/17/16. Statutory Authority: Chapters 18.51 and 74.42 RCW and 42 C.F.R. 489.52. WSR 08-20-062, § 388-97-1080, filed 9/24/08, effective 11/1/08.]