



# ASPAN

American Society of PeriAnesthesia Nurses

## Clinical Practice: Frequently Asked Question

**Q: What are the staffing recommendations for Phase I level of care? Is it necessary to have two nurses present?**

**A:** ASPAN members can find the answer to these two questions by logging in to [www.aspan.org](http://www.aspan.org). Click on the Clinical Practice tab at the top of the page and “pull down” to Patient Classification. Here, you can read the staffing recommendations in its entirety.<sup>1</sup> This is “Practice Recommendation 1 – Patient Classification/Staffing Recommendations” that can also be found in the ASPAN 2019-2020 *Perianesthesia Nursing Standards, Practice Recommendations and Interpretive Statements*.<sup>2</sup> If you are not an ASPAN member, the recommendation for staffing ratios can be found in the ASPAN Standards.

In a nutshell, the Standards state that “Two registered nurses, one of whom is an RN competent in Phase I postanesthesia nursing, are in the same room/unit where the patient is receiving Phase I level of care.”<sup>2</sup>

### References:

1. American Society of PeriAnesthesia Nurses. Practice Recommendation 1 – Patient Classification/Staffing Recommendations. Available to members on the website.
2. American Society of PeriAnesthesia Nurses. *2019-2020 Perianesthesia Nursing Standards, Practice Recommendations and Interpretive Statements*. Cherry Hill, NJ: ASPAN; 2018.

*This FAQ has been reviewed and updated July 2019*