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. 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.¹ 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.² 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.”²

References:


This FAQ has been reviewed and updated July 2019