



New Mexico  
Hospital Association

## 2009 Legislative Agenda

### WORKFORCE

#### Nursing Ratios

Background: Hospitals, nurse leaders and nurses all agree that patient safety is critical to all that we do. New Mexico hospitals and nurse leaders are committed to safe staffing for our patients. New Mexico hospitals and nurse leaders support the right patient care, at the right place and at the right time. We believe that it takes a team of caregivers to care for patients, and we recognize the critical role of the Registered Nurse on that team.

- The number of patients a nurse should care for at any one time must be based on the acuity of the patient, the education and experience of each nurse, the geography of the specific unit, and the team members available to care for a patient's needs.
- The clinical judgment of an experienced care team can never be replaced by a number.
- The demand for care and patient needs change constantly and adjustments must be made to ensure needs are met.
- With New Mexico health care reform initiatives to improve access, provide affordable health care coverage, reduce the uninsured, and provide for adequate provider payments being rolled out, it is just not the right time to add costly mandates.

*NMHA Position: **Oppose** [mandatory nurse staffing ratios](#).*