State of Idaho
DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND WELFARE
Division of Welfare

Bureau of Facility Standards

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INFORMATION LETTER 93-4

DATE: March 19, 1993

TO: ALL LONG TERM CARE FACILITIES

FROM: Jean Schoonover, R.N., Chief
Bureau of Facility Standards

SUBJECT: 2.4 Hours Per Patient Per Day Requirement

There has been some confusion in the past regarding the 2.4 hours per patient, per day requirements. This letter is to clarify any misunderstandings regarding the requirements.

Skilled nursing facilities with a census of fifty-nine (59) or less may count the supervising nurse on each shift in the 2.4 calculation.

A skilled nursing facility with a census of fifty-nine (59) or more may not include the supervising nurse in the 2.4 calculation. Therefore, the hours for one supervising nurse, on each shift, are deducted (8 hours each x 3 shifts for a total of 24 hours).

For example, in a facility with 120 residents, thirty-six (36) people would need to be scheduled in a twenty-four (24) hour period, plus one supervising nurse on each shift, which would be a total of thirty-nine (39) people. (120 x 2.4 PPD = 288 hours, 36 staff x 8 hours = 288 hours + 3 supervising staff).

In neither case mentioned above can the Director of Nursing Services be included. Activity Directors and/or Activity Aides should not be counted in the 2.4 minimum requirement.

A new nurses' aide may be counted in the 2.4 PPD staffing calculation <u>after</u> they have completed sixteen (16) hours of orientation. Domestic aides and hospitality aides are not included.

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The enclosed portion of the *Rules and Minimum Standards for Skilled Nursing and Intermediate Care Facilities in Idaho*, is provided for your information. We wish to point out that these are **minimum** requirements. Facilities are still responsible for providing enough nursing hours (PPD's) to provide the residents with the appropriate care, as planned for in their plans of care.

If you have questions, please contact John Hathaway, Supervisor, Long Term Care at 334-6629.

Jean Schoonover

Jean Schoonover, R.N., Chief
Bureau of Facility Standards

JS/tm

Enclosure

(1-1-88)

d. Nursing hours per patient/resident per day shall be provided to meet the total needs of the patients/residents. The minimum staffing shall be as follows: (1-1-88)

i. Skilled Nursing Facilities with a census of fifty-nine (59) or less patients/residents shall provide 2.4 hours per patient/resident per day. Hours shall not include the Director of Nursing Services but the supervising nurse on each shift may be counted in the calculations of the 2.4 hours per patient/resident per day. (11-20-89)

ii. Skilled Nursing Facilities with a census of sixty (60) or more patients/residents shall provide 2.4 hours per patient/resident per day. Hours shall not include the Director of Nursing Services or supervising nurse. (11-20-89)

iii. ICFs that admit only intermediate care patients/residents shall provide 1.8 hours per patient/resident per day. Hours may include the Director of Nursing Services, supervising nurse and charge nurses. (11-20-89)

iv. Nursing hours per patient/resident per day are required seven (7) days a week with provision for relief personnel. (11-20-89)

v. Skilled and Intermediate Nursing Facilities shall be considered in compliance with the minimum staffing ratios if, on Monday of each week, the total hours worked by nursing personnel for the previous seven (7) days equal or exceed the minimum, staffing ratio for the same period when averaged on a daily basis and the facility has received prior approval from the Licensing Agency to calculate nursing hours in this manner. (11-20-89)

e. Combined Hospital and Skilled Nursing Facility. In a combined facility the DNS may serve both the hospital and long term care unit with supervising and charge nurses as

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