

NURSING HOME STAFFING

Staffing is one of most important factors in determining nursing home quality of care. It is often the underlining issue in other nursing home deficiencies (e.g., pressure ulcers and antipsychotic drug use) because less staffing means less time adequately meeting the needs of residents.

Standards of Care

- **24-hour licensed nursing service.** Nursing homes must have licensed and other nursing personnel on a 24-hour basis.
- **Competent and skilled staff.** Nursing homes must have sufficient nursing staff with the appropriate competencies and skills to assure resident safety and attain or maintain the highest practicable physical, mental, and psychosocial well-being of each resident.
- **Designated nurse on duty.** Nursing homes must designate a licensed nurse to act as the charge nurse on each shift.

Resources

1. LTCCC's Learning Center has fact sheets and resources on staffing and care issues that may result from insufficient or inadequately trained staff. See <https://nursinghome411.org/learning-center/>.
2. LTCCC posts, on a quarterly basis, the average staffing levels for all U.S. nursing homes. One can search by name, city, or county. See <https://nursinghome411.org/nursing-home-data-information/staffing/>.
3. LTCCC's Action Center has easy-to-use action alerts to speak out in support of safe staffing. See <https://nursinghome411.org/action-center/>.