

Massachusetts Health Policy Forum and the New England Public Policy Center

present

Nurse-to-Patient Ratios: Research and Reality

**Federal Reserve Bank of Boston
Boston, MA
March 30, 2005**

Should government intervene to mandate nurse-to-patient ratios in hospitals? The Massachusetts state legislature is considering a number of approaches to address patient safety including a law establishing minimum registered nurse staffing ratios. This forum will review the latest research on this complex issue within the context of a nursing shortage and rising health care costs. We will also hear from leading proponents and opponents, as well as key state legislators on this and alternative approaches.

Agenda

8:00 a.m. Continental breakfast

8:30 a.m. Welcome and introduction

Philip Johnston, Chairman, Board of Directors, Massachusetts Health Policy Forum

Cathy E. Minehan, President and CEO, Federal Reserve Bank of Boston

SESSION I: RESEARCH

Moderator: Stuart Altman
Sol C. Chaikin Professor of National Health Policy
Brandeis University

8:45 a.m. Panel I – The nurse and patient impact

Jack Needleman, PhD, Associate Professor, Department of Health Services, University of California Los Angeles School of Public Health - How nurse-to-patient ratios affect patient outcomes

Julie Sochalski, PhD, RN, FAAN, Associate Professor, School of Nursing and Senior Fellow, Leonard Davis Institute of Health Economics, University of Pennsylvania - The effect of nurse staffing on nurse satisfaction and burnout

Jean Ann Seago, PhD, RN, Associate Professor, University of California, San Francisco - The impact of the nursing shortage on the feasibility of requiring minimum nurse-to-patient ratios

Peter Buerhaus, PhD, RN, FAAN, Valerie Potter Professor of Nursing, Senior Associate Dean for Research, Vanderbilt University School of Nursing - Alternatives to nurse-to-patient ratios

10:30 a.m. Break

10:45 a.m. Panel II – The economic impact

Joanne Spetz, PhD, Associate Professor, Dept. of Community Health Systems and Associate Director, Center for California Health Workforce Studies, University of California, San Francisco- The California experience following implementation of minimum ratios in 1999

Thomas Granneman, PhD, Andover Economic Evaluation Results from a Massachusetts Nurses Association survey on the costs of implementing ratios

James M. Howell, PhD, The financial and business impact of mandated nurse staffing ratios for hospitals

11:45 a.m. Luncheon
Keynote Speaker - Joyce C. Clifford, PhD, RN, FAAN, President and CEO, The Institute for Nursing Healthcare Leadership, Inc. “Putting Nursing in context”

SESSION II REALITY

Moderator: Robert Tannenwald
Assistant Vice President and Economist
Federal Reserve Bank of Boston

1:00 pm Panel I – Current legislation
Representative Christine E. Canavan, RN, 10th Plymouth District, Vice-Chair, Joint Committee on Health Care

*Senator Richard Moore, Senate Chair, Committee on Health Care
Massachusetts General Court*

2:00 pm **Panel II – Opponents and proponents**

*Karen O. Moore, RN, MS, FACHE, President, Massachusetts
Organization of Nurse Executives*

*Julie Pinkham, RN, BSN, MHA Executive Director,
Massachusetts Nurses Association*

3:00 p.m. **Closing remarks and adjournment**

Stuart Altman and Bob Tannenwald

General information

Conference date

Wednesday, March 30, 2005

Location

Federal Reserve Bank of Boston
600 Atlantic Avenue
Boston, MA 02210

Registration information

RSVPs must be received by March 9, 2005. Please note that seating is limited and this invitation is not transferable. To RSVP, please email MHPF@brandeis.edu or call Anna Shvarts at 781-736-8479.

Conference inquiries

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