



Canadian Association of Perinatal and
Women's Health Nurses

Association canadienne des infirmières et infirmiers
en périnatalité et en santé des femmes

Dear CAPWHN Members,

This letter is to our members in response to requests to review and respond to AWHONN perinatal staffing guideline recommendations. During the last three years, Canada has experienced a stress to our healthcare system that has left many areas short staffed, exhausted and leaving the profession to support their families or their own well-being. This has affected all areas of nursing, including perinatal areas, which has led to many teams to review staffing guidelines and re-design how we can deliver care safely to our patients with the resources available.

Our Clinical Practice Committee (CPC) has been reviewing staffing recommendation research, including the AWHONN guidelines and will continue this work. Other clinical issues that we are considering are patient acuity, patient turnover/volumes, patient outcomes related to staffing type/volumes, predictive staffing models, recommendations in relation to large vs small hospitals/remote locations, staffing skill mix, and more. We are also considering current perinatal staffing guidelines within the context of the Canadian healthcare system. The CPC will continue this work, review potential research opportunities and share our findings when available.

At this time we do not have a formal statement of support for any specific guidelines/recommendations. We encourage clinical teams that need to urgently review staffing models to consider the guidelines available, the issues identified above and those identified by your team (including staff/patient/family feedback and local data such as patient outcomes). If your team has found an innovative staff solution during these difficult times please let us know and we can share with all members admin@capwhn.ca – one of the best parts about being a CAPWHN member is the network we create between each other to support the sharing of ideas and evidence informed practices!

Last, but not least, we want to acknowledge that this has been an extremely stressful time for each of our members and the nursing profession. We want to thank you for continuing to care for our perinatal and women's health population, while taking time to care for yourselves and your family/friends. Please take care of each other and be kind to one another as we recover from the pandemic and all the hardships that it has brought.

Sincerely,

The CAPWHN Clinical Practice Committee