

SUBJECT: Staffing Requirements at Extended Care Facilities

SUBMITTED BY: Ohio Osteopathic Association Board of Trustees

REFERRED TO:

1 RESOLVED, THAT THE FOLLOWING POLICY STATEMENT BE DELETED:

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3 ~~WHEREAS, our elderly patients deserve dignity and a good quality of life regardless of~~
4 ~~their current health; and~~

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6 ~~WHEREAS, the government assists nursing home operations by providing funding for~~
7 ~~care; and~~

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9 ~~WHEREAS, a growing number of people are requiring nursing home care; and~~

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11 ~~WHEREAS, a large percentage of these people are in need of assistance in one or more~~
12 ~~activities of daily living; and~~

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14 ~~WHEREAS, current guidelines and recommendations may allow one nurse and one to~~
15 ~~two aides to care for a large number of patients, occasionally as little as 16 and as many~~
16 ~~as 64 (at night); and~~

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18 ~~WHEREAS, this poses a danger to patients due to their high demand needs especially~~
19 ~~with the number of patients who require feeding, toileting, repositioning, wound~~
20 ~~care/prevention, emotional and mental redirecting; and~~

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22 ~~WHEREAS, current statistics reflect an average of at least one third of nursing home~~
23 ~~residents require assistance with more than three activities of daily living, including~~
24 ~~feeding, toileting and transferring; and~~

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26 ~~WHEREAS, many patients need additional care such as wound or ostomy care for which~~
27 ~~there is no current recommendation to require a wound nurse to alleviate the additional~~
28 ~~strain on regularly staffed nurses to perform adequate wound care; and~~

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30 ~~WHEREAS, adequate assistance with these activities of daily living, especially nutrition~~
31 ~~and wound care, would greatly reduce the risk of wound formation, infection and~~
32 ~~frequent falls, among other issues dealing with such deterioration in the body systems;~~
33 ~~and~~

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35 ~~WHEREAS, investing in the interest of our elders and focusing on prevention would in~~
36 ~~turn reduce the amount of money, time and quality of life being spent to treat new~~
37 ~~problems; now therefore be it~~
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39 ~~RESOLVED, that the Ohio Osteopathic Association (OOA) urge the appropriate~~
40 ~~government agencies to require the staffing guidelines suggested by the National Citizens~~
41 ~~Coalition for Nursing Home Reform which would require one LPN or RN per 15 patients~~
42 ~~and at least one aid or other skilled full time employee per five patients; and be it further~~
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44 ~~RESOLVED, the OOA encourage training of additional persons to aid during mealtimes~~
45 ~~to assist with feeding; and be it further~~
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47 ~~RESOLVED, the OOA seek changes in federal standard of care to add a requirement for~~
48 ~~one wound care nurse available seven days a week to have the full time duty of~~
49 ~~evaluating patients weekly in addition to performing all wound treatments; and be it~~
50 ~~further~~
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52 ~~RESOLVED, that a copy of this resolution be submitted to the American Osteopathic~~
53 ~~Association for consideration by the 2006 AOA House of Delegates.~~
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55 Action Related to this Resolution: The Ohio delegation withdrew this resolution after the
56 Ad Hoc Reference Committee recommended defeat based on consensus that it should not
57 be the position of the American Osteopathic Association to mandate staffing levels within
58 health care institutions. The AOA has the lead responsibility for addressing federal
59 policy issues.