**Patient Assignment within the ICU**

**Hospital POLICY**

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| **Policy Name: *Determination of patient assignment within the ICU*** | **Approved:** **Effective:**  |

1. **POLICY STATEMENT:** For purposes of determining a patient assignment to a registered nurse providing direct patient care within an intensive care unit, ***\_\_\_\_\_*** hospital has developed and implemented an acuity tool that was approved and certified by the Massachusetts Department of Public Health on ***\_\_\_\_\_(DATE)\_\_\_\_\_\_\_***. The ICU acuity tool is used as a guide by the registered nurse, in consultation with the appropriate nurse manager of the ICU, to assist in determining the appropriate patient assignment upon admission/transfer into the ICU as well as during each shift. The key elements that are used to determine patient assignment include:
	1. Assessment of the condition and stability of ICU patients by the registered nurse assigned to providing direct care to the patient, using sound nursing judgment and document the results using the DPH-certified ICU acuity tool;
	2. Adjudicate differences in judgment through consultation with the nurse manager / designee, after taking into consideration indicators of patient stability, indicators of nurse workload, and other Critical Environmental Factors in the ICU to make adjustments as needed; and
	3. Review and document the results of the assessment of ICU patient stability and the patient assignment during each shift, for every new admission/transfer, and other times as determined by the registered nurse or nurse manager including but not limited to acute changes in the patient’s condition.
2. **SCOPE:** Registered nurses providing direct patient carein Adult, Pediatric, and Neonatal Intensive Care Units as well as nurse mangers and other ancillary staff providing direct patient care
3. **PROCEDURE:** The Massachusetts Department of Public Health certified the use of \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ as the acuity tool used in the hospital ICU. As a result, the patient assignment is determined by *(insert a line from each certified ICU acuity tool document that outlines how the assessment aides in determines staffing)*.

Registered nurses providing direct patient care in the ICU receive the following training on the use of the ICU acuity tool:

Pursuant to 958 CMR 8.00, \_\_\_\_\_ hospital has also developed an ICU acuity tool advisory committee that meets (insert the time frame – routinely, quarterly, annually) to review and provide comments on the continued effectiveness of the current acuity tool and documentation, which shall be reviewed by the hospital to determine any improvements or changes. For further detail, please refer to the certified acuity tool documentation which is available upon request.