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MA Hospitals' Actual Unit-Specific Staffing Reports for 2012 Posted

[The PatientCareLink website](#), which allows the public to see how each nursing unit in nearly every Massachusetts hospital is staffed, has been updated with the latest *actual* staffing reports for FY2012. *Budgeted* 2012 staffing plans were posted on the site in December of 2011. The difference between the actual and planned staffing is a reflection of the constantly changing needs of patients.

Some 90 acute care, long-term acute care, and rehabilitation hospitals have participated, sharing 743 unit staffing plans for critical care, step down, and medical/surgical units; emergency department plans can also be viewed at the site. Hospitals also explain any significant variation (+/-5%) from their *budgeted* staffing plans on the site. This is the sixth year such information has been made publicly available.

“Massachusetts was the first state to voluntarily make this information public,” says Pat Noga, PhD, RN, Vice President for Clinical Affairs at the Massachusetts Hospital Association (MHA), which co-sponsors the *PatientCareLink* site along with the Organization of Nurse Leaders for Massachusetts and Rhode Island (ONL). “The site also contains comments from a number of the hospitals explaining their numbers in greater detail. It's a great resource for patients and their families, along with the other postings on the *PatientCareLink* website such as hospitals' reports of falls and pressure ulcers, among other measures. The staffing plans and reports give patients an open and transparent view of the hospitals providing them care.”

Web visitors can select specific hospitals and see the staffing reports by going to www.patientcarelink.org and clicking on “2012 reports” under Hospital Data/ Staffing Plans and Reports to view the latest plans. *Budgeted 2013* plans are also available on the site.

Patient outcomes such as fall rates, pressure ulcer rates, and Hospital Compare measures are also listed on *PatientCareLink* under Performance Measures. The comprehensive data and the complete openness of the site have generated increased national attention for *PatientCareLink* and made it a highly credible resource for staffing and performance reporting.

The *PatientCareLink* website was developed by the MHA and ONL.

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