

Date: March 1, 2024



Oregon Center for
NURSING

FRIDAY HUDDLE

A gathering of Oregon nursing workforce leaders to offer timely updates and share insights from peers and stakeholders.

Nursing Workforce

Nurse Staffing Law in Rural Oregon: Huddlers discussed how [Oregon's new staffing ratios](#) might impact rural healthcare, including concerns about facilities admitting fewer patients to compensate for inappropriate staffing. While the law is already in effect, updated ratios will be implemented in June 2024, and fines will be enforced in June 2025. The Oregon Health Authority also [provided resources for healthcare systems](#) to implement these new guidelines. Huddlers agreed that position vacancies contribute to the strain, and while [the number of nurses has reached a historical high](#), retention is also an essential factor. We also discussed how the closure of small-town hospitals and clinics severely limits patient access to care—almost requiring acquisitions or mergers with larger corporations to ensure community healthcare options.

Change Healthcare Data Breach: Huddlers also talked about [the cybersecurity attack on Change Healthcare](#), which is impacting providers' and pharmacies' ability to submit claims and delaying payments, risking their ability to provide patient care. The breach was first identified in late February. The attack has also severely affected insurance payments for providers, including nurse practitioners. Huddlers discussed how the delay in payment could impact smaller providers with limited cash reserves. Reports suggest that systemic effects of the breach could peak in two weeks and last up to six weeks. United Healthcare, the parent company of Change Healthcare, is supposedly planning a loan program to support smaller providers during the outage. OCN is already in touch with the Oregon Health Authority and is further investigating state resources available to support Oregon nurses.

Events and Happenings

OCNE Nursing Education Conference: Join the [Oregon Consortium for Nursing Education for its annual conference](#) from May 9-10 in Eugene, Oregon. This year's programming focuses on best practice techniques and tools that apply to nurse educators and nursing educational programs. Practice partners are also welcome.

NPO Annual Pharmacology Conference: Explore the latest in pharmacology across primary care, obesity treatment, behavioral health, and more at the 2024 Pharmacology Conference hosted by Nurse Practitioners of Oregon (NPO). The event is scheduled for April 6 in Wilsonville, Oregon. [Learn more and register online!](#)

Emergency Management Town Hall: Help shape the future of emergency management in Oregon. Oregon Emergency Management seeks input from individuals statewide, including nurses. Share your feedback in a survey (due by April 30) or attend the virtual community town hall on March 27 from 1:30 to 3 p.m. [Additional information is available online.](#)

Next Friday Huddle:

Friday, March 8, at 8:00 a.m.

[Register Here!](#)

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