

# PATIENT CLASSIFICATION SYSTEM

- Rapid and dynamic changes in health care delivery have placed the issues of patient safety and quality of care at the center of health care. Patient classification system is the key to safer staffing and better patient care. The system analyzes clinical workload and recommends the most effective combination of schedule, time and skills to meet daily patient needs.

- Eight categories of patient needs which are looked in during pt classification. They are- Cognitive, Self care, Emotional/ social/Spiritual Family, Comfort/ pain, Treatment, Patient education and Transition.

- Purpose –
- Determines the required nursing hours needed to provide safe and efficient patient care based on standards of care and practice.
- Determines the number and category of staff (skill mix) needed in providing quality care.

- Monitors changes in patient demographic and care needs
- Provides data on each patient care unit that directs and supports staffing decision making.
- Ensures that quality nsg care is provided in a safe environment.
- Assess the level and support services required.

- Enhances staff satisfaction through a stress free work environment.
- Advantages –
- Improves patient satisfaction by providing required time to the patient according to their needs.

- Enhances staff satisfaction by determining staffing needs and this decreasing work load.
- Monitors the provision of quality nursing care.
- Meets legislative requirement
- Reduces nurse turn over rate.
- Increases positive patient outcomes.