### NQF Safe Practice #9: Nursing Workforce

**NQF# N/A**

**Developer:** The Leapfrog Group

**Data Source:** Leapfrog Hospital Survey

**Practice Statement:** Hospitals should implement critical components of a well-designed nursing workforce that mutually reinforces patient safeguards.

**Rationale:** Registered nurses constitute the largest group of health care professionals, with about 59% of nurses employed in hospitals. Nurses continue to be the primary hospital caregivers. The frequency of harm to which patients are exposed, because of insufficient nurse staffing and lower levels of nurse education is apparent. Inadequate staffing has been linked to increased mortality, complications, adverse events, hospital length of stay, and resource usage. However, there is a lack of specificity on the preventability of the effects of inadequate nurse staffing in each care setting.

**Citations for Rationale:**

**Impact:**
- Frequency of harm apparent.
- Severity of harm has been demonstrated.

**Citations for Impact:**

**Opportunity:**
- Opportunity for improvement exists, based on the coefficient of variation for the measure.

**Evidence:**
- Supported by theoretical rationale.

**Citations for Evidence:**