



# RATIOS AND PROFESSIONAL PRACTICE

## Optimizing healthcare professionals' scope of practice

The ratio projects rely on **collaborative effort** and require careful use of human resources based on their scope of practice and reserved activities.

This professional collaboration reflects the importance of partnering with other professionals in an effort to optimize the quality and safety of care.

Nurses, licensed practical nurses and respiratory therapists must be able to **fully exercise their scope of practice to reap the maximum benefit of ratios**. Therefore, it is absolutely essential to take time to clarify and respect each professional role before implementing the ratios.

- It is a **nurse's** duty to assess the physical and mental condition of a symptomatic person (*Nurses Act*, chapter I-8, sec. 36);
- **Licensed practical nurses** participate in assessing a person's state of health and carrying out a care plan (*Professional Code*, chapter C-26, sec. 37);
- **Respiratory therapists** assess the cardio-pulmonary condition of a symptomatic person (*Regulation respecting certain professional activities that may be engaged in by respiratory therapists*).

Successful teamwork relies on:

- Sharing common objectives;
- Knowing each team member's role and responsibilities, thus facilitating redistribution of certain care activities to other professionals, in particular respiratory therapists;
- Respect, trust and recognition of each one's contribution;
- Effective communication.

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