Example Acuity/Workload Tool for Patient Assignments

**Acuity**

* Use NEWS scores
* Easiest and most reliable way to determine deterioration

**Workload**

* Consider what is needed re: ADL (frequent toileting, total feeds) and transfer support
* Consider frequency of PO/IV meds, tubes/lines/drains, dressing changes, BSBG checks
* Confusion or other support required

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| **Workload Score** | **Qualifiers** |
| 0 | * Planned discharge * Independent |
| 1 | * Up with supervision * Set-up required for ADLs * Routine vitals (qshift, BID) |
| 2 | * 1 person assist * Vitals x2 per shift * Minimal assist with ADLs * Maintenance IVF * Routine PO meds * Patient is in isolation |
| 3 | * 2 person assist * Assist with all ADLs * Foley or other simple drain * Daily dressing (uncomplicated) * Blood sugars AC & HS * Cardiac Monitoring * Confused, bed alarms required |
| 4 | * 2+ person turn, Hoyer lift * Total care (ADLs and Feeds/tube feeds) * ++ respiratory requirements (trach, face mask) * Chest tube * Continuous IV infusion of medication(not fluids) or frequent IV meds * Blood sugars q2 hours * Hourly I&Os * GCS required more than q shift * Pineal restraints * Packing dressings |

Staff will assign a workload # for each of their patients, and write this score, along with the patient’s most recent NEWS score by \_\_\_\_\_hours each shift.