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
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| 1 | * Up with supervision
* Set-up required for ADLs
* Routine vitals (qshift, BID)
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| 2 | * 1 person assist
* Vitals x2 per shift
* Minimal assist with ADLs
* Maintenance IVF
* Routine PO meds
* Patient is in isolation
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| 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
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| 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
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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.