

# Nurse understaffing ups inpatient infection risk

June 11 2019

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(HealthDay)—Nurse understaffing is associated with an increased risk for health care-associated infections (HAIs) among hospitalized patients, according to a study published in the May issue of the *Journal of Nursing Administration*.

Jingjing Shang, Ph.D., R.N., from the Columbia University School of Nursing in New York City, and [colleagues](#) analyzed data from a large urban hospital system (2007 to 2012) to evaluate the association of nurse staffing (two days before HAI onset) with HAIs. They also evaluated this association when adjusting for individual risks. The study sample included 100,264 [patients](#) with 448,826 patient-days from 34 units.

The researchers found that 15 percent of patient-days had one shift understaffed, defined as staffing

Citation: Nurse understaffing ups inpatient infection risk (2019, June 11) retrieved 23 April 2024 from <https://medicalxpress.com/news/2019-06-nurse-understaffing-ups-inpatient-infection.html>

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