

111TH CONGRESS
2^D SESSION

S. 3491

To amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to provide for patient protection by establishing safe nurse staffing levels at certain Medicare providers, and for other purposes.

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

JUNE 15, 2010

Mr. INOUE introduced the following bill; which was read twice and referred to the Committee on Finance

A BILL

To amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to provide for patient protection by establishing safe nurse staffing levels at certain Medicare providers, and for other purposes.

1 *Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representa-*
2 *tives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

3 **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

4 This Act may be cited as the “Registered Nurse Safe
5 Staffing Act of 2010”.

6 **SEC. 2. FINDINGS.**

7 Congress makes the following findings:

1 (1) There are a number of hospitals throughout
2 the United States that do not provide adequate reg-
3 istered nurse staffing to protect the health and safe-
4 ty of patients.

5 (2) Research shows that patient safety in hos-
6 pitals is directly proportionate to the number of reg-
7 istered nurses working in the hospital. Higher staff-
8 ing levels by experienced registered nurses are re-
9 lated to lower rates of negative patient outcomes, in-
10 cluding falls, infections, medication errors, and even
11 death.

12 (3) Inadequate nurse staffing was found to be
13 a contributing factor in 24 percent of all unantici-
14 pated events that resulted in patient death, injury,
15 or permanent loss of function.

16 (4) Registered nurses play a vital role in pre-
17 venting patient care errors, for example registered
18 nurses intercepted 86 percent of medical errors be-
19 fore those errors affected patients.

20 (5) As a payer for inpatient and outpatient hos-
21 pital services for individuals entitled to benefits
22 under the Medicare program, the Federal Govern-
23 ment has a compelling interest in promoting the
24 safety of such individuals by requiring any hospital

1 participating in that program to establish minimum
2 safe staffing levels for registered nurses.

3 (6) Adequate registered nurse staffing levels are
4 necessary for the delivery of safe, quality care. Inad-
5 adequate registered nurse staffing levels contribute to
6 nurse burnout and exacerbate the current nursing
7 shortage in the United States.

8 (7) Nearly 25 percent of registered nurses indi-
9 cate that they are considering leaving direct patient
10 care nursing due to inadequate nurse staffing, and
11 nearly 60 percent of registered nurses report they
12 know of another nurse who left direct care nursing
13 because of concerns about inadequate nurse staffing.

14 (8) The cost to a hospital to replace a direct
15 patient care registered nurse is more than 101 per-
16 cent, and as much as 106 percent, of a registered
17 nurse's annual salary.

18 (9) As a result of insufficient staff, registered
19 nurses are being required to perform professional
20 services under conditions that do not support quality
21 health care or a healthful work environment for reg-
22 istered nurses.

1 **SEC. 3. ESTABLISHMENT OF SAFE NURSE STAFFING LEV-**
2 **ELS BY MEDICARE PARTICIPATING HOS-**
3 **PITALS.**

4 (a) REQUIREMENT OF MEDICARE PROVIDER AGREE-
5 MENT.—Section 1866(a)(1) of the Social Security Act (42
6 U.S.C. 1395cc(a)(1)) is amended—

7 (1) in subparagraph (V), by striking “and” at
8 the end;

9 (2) in subparagraph (W), as added by section
10 3005 of the Patient Protection and Affordable Care
11 Act (Public Law 111–148)—

12 (A) by moving such subparagraph 2 ems to
13 the left; and

14 (B) by striking the period at the end;

15 (3) in subparagraph (W), as added by section
16 6406(b) of the Patient Protection and Affordable
17 Care Act (Public Law 111–148)—

18 (A) by moving such subparagraph 2 ems to
19 the left;

20 (B) by redesignating such subparagraph as
21 subparagraph (X); and

22 (C) by striking the period at the end and
23 inserting “, and”; and

24 (4) by inserting after subparagraph (X), as re-
25 designated by paragraph (3)(B), the following new
26 subparagraph:

1 “(Y) in the case of a hospital (as defined in sec-
2 tion 1861(e)), to meet the requirements of section
3 1899B.”.

4 (b) REQUIREMENTS.—Title XVIII of the Social Secu-
5 rity Act (42 U.S.C. 1395 et seq.), as amended by sections
6 3022 and 3403 of the Patient Protection and Affordable
7 Care Act (Public Law 111–148), is amended by inserting
8 after section 1899A the following new section:

9 “NURSE STAFFING REQUIREMENTS FOR MEDICARE
10 PARTICIPATING HOSPITALS

11 “SEC. 1899B. (a) IMPLEMENTATION OF NURSE
12 STAFFING PLAN.—

13 “(1) IN GENERAL.—Each participating hospital
14 shall implement a hospital-wide staffing plan for
15 nursing services furnished in the hospital.

16 “(2) REQUIREMENT FOR DEVELOPMENT OF
17 STAFFING PLAN BY HOSPITAL NURSE STAFFING
18 COMMITTEE.—The hospital-wide staffing plan for
19 nursing services implemented by a hospital pursuant
20 to paragraph (1)—

21 “(A) shall be developed by the hospital
22 nurse staffing committee established under sub-
23 section (b); and

24 “(B) shall require that an appropriate
25 number of registered nurses provide direct pa-

1 tient care in each unit and on each shift of the
2 hospital to ensure staffing levels that—

3 “(i) address the unique characteristics
4 of the patients and hospital units; and

5 “(ii) result in the delivery of safe,
6 quality patient care, consistent with the re-
7 quirements under subsection (c).

8 “(b) HOSPITAL NURSE STAFFING COMMITTEE.—

9 “(1) ESTABLISHMENT.—Each participating
10 hospital shall establish a hospital nurse staffing
11 committee (hereinafter in this section referred to as
12 the ‘Committee’).

13 “(2) COMPOSITION.—A Committee established
14 pursuant to this subsection shall be composed of
15 members as follows:

16 “(A) MINIMUM 55 PERCENT NURSE PAR-
17 TICIPATION.—Not less than 55 percent of the
18 members of the Committee shall be registered
19 nurses who provide direct patient care but who
20 are neither hospital nurse managers nor part of
21 the hospital administration staff.

22 “(B) INCLUSION OF HOSPITAL NURSE
23 MANAGERS.—The Committee shall include
24 members who are hospital nurse managers.

1 “(C) INCLUSION OF NURSES FROM SPE-
2 CIALTY UNITS.—The members of the Com-
3 mittee shall include at least 1 registered nurse
4 who provides direct care from each nurse spe-
5 cialty or unit of the hospital (each such spe-
6 cialty or unit as determined by the hospital).

7 “(D) OTHER HOSPITAL PERSONNEL.—The
8 Committee shall include such other personnel of
9 the hospital as the hospital determines to be ap-
10 propriate.

11 “(3) DUTIES.—

12 “(A) DEVELOPMENT OF STAFFING
13 PLAN.—The Committee shall develop a hospital-
14 wide staffing plan for nursing services furnished
15 in the hospital consistent with the requirements
16 under subsection (c).

17 “(B) REVIEW AND MODIFICATION OF
18 STAFFING PLAN.—The Committee shall—

19 “(i) conduct regular, ongoing moni-
20 toring of the implementation of the hos-
21 pital-wide staffing plan for nursing services
22 furnished in the hospital;

23 “(ii) carry out evaluations of the hos-
24 pital-wide staffing plan for nursing services
25 at least annually; and

1 “(iii) make such modifications to the
2 hospital-wide staffing plan for nursing
3 services as may be appropriate.

4 “(C) ADDITIONAL DUTIES.—The Com-
5 mittee shall—

6 “(i) develop policies and procedures
7 for overtime requirements of registered
8 nurses providing direct patient care and
9 for appropriate time and manner of relief
10 of such registered nurses during routine
11 absences; and

12 “(ii) carry out such additional duties
13 as the Committee determines to be appro-
14 priate.

15 “(c) STAFFING PLAN REQUIREMENTS.—

16 “(1) PLAN REQUIREMENTS.—Subject to para-
17 graph (2), a hospital-wide staffing plan for nursing
18 services developed and implemented under this sec-
19 tion shall—

20 “(A) be based upon input from the reg-
21 istered nurse staff of the hospital who provide
22 direct patient care or their exclusive representa-
23 tives, as well as the chief nurse executive;

24 “(B) be based upon the number of patients
25 and the level and variability of intensity of care

1 to be provided to those patients, with appro-
2 priate consideration given to admissions, dis-
3 charges, and transfers during each shift;

4 “(C) take into account contextual issues
5 affecting nurse staffing and the delivery of care,
6 including architecture and geography of the en-
7 vironment and available technology;

8 “(D) take into account the level of edu-
9 cation, training, and experience of those reg-
10 istered nurses providing direct patient care;

11 “(E) take into account the staffing levels
12 and services provided by other health care per-
13 sonnel associated with nursing care, such as
14 certified nurse assistants, licensed vocational
15 nurses, licensed psychiatric technicians, nursing
16 assistants, aides, and orderlies;

17 “(F) take into account staffing levels rec-
18 ommended by specialty nursing organizations;

19 “(G) establish adjustable minimum num-
20 bers of registered nurses based upon an assess-
21 ment by registered nurses of the level and vari-
22 ability of intensity of care required by patients
23 under existing conditions;

1 “(H) take into account unit and facility
2 level staffing, quality and patient outcome data,
3 and national comparisons, as available;

4 “(I) ensure that a registered nurse shall
5 not be assigned to work in a particular unit of
6 the hospital without first having established the
7 ability to provide professional care in such unit;
8 and

9 “(J) provide for exemptions from some or
10 all requirements of the hospital-wide staffing
11 plan for nursing services during a declared
12 state of emergency (as defined in subsection
13 (l)(1)) if the hospital is requested or expected
14 to provide an exceptional level of emergency or
15 other medical services.

16 “(2) LIMITATION.—A staffing system developed
17 and implemented under this section—

18 “(A) shall not preempt any registered-
19 nurse staffing levels established under State law
20 or regulation; and

21 “(B) may not utilize any minimum number
22 of registered nurses established under para-
23 graph (1)(G) as an upper limit on the nurse
24 staffing of the hospital to which such minimum
25 number applies.

1 “(d) REPORTING AND RELEASE TO PUBLIC OF CER-
2 TAIN STAFFING INFORMATION.—

3 “(1) REQUIREMENTS FOR HOSPITALS.—Each
4 participating hospital shall—

5 “(A) post daily for each shift, in a clearly
6 visible place, a document that specifies in a uni-
7 form manner (as prescribed by the Secretary)
8 the current number of licensed and unlicensed
9 nursing staff directly responsible for patient
10 care in each unit of the hospital, identifying
11 specifically the number of registered nurses;

12 “(B) upon request, make available to the
13 public—

14 “(i) the nursing staff information de-
15 scribed in subparagraph (A);

16 “(ii) a detailed written description of
17 the hospital-wide staffing plan imple-
18 mented by the hospital pursuant to sub-
19 section (a); and

20 “(iii) not later than 90 days after the
21 date on which an evaluation is carried out
22 by the Committee under subsection
23 (b)(3)(B)(ii), a copy of such evaluation;
24 and

1 “(C) not less frequently than quarterly,
2 submit to the Secretary in a uniform manner
3 (as prescribed by the Secretary) the nursing
4 staff information described in subparagraph (A)
5 through electronic data submission.

6 “(2) SECRETARIAL RESPONSIBILITIES.—The
7 Secretary shall—

8 “(A) make the information submitted pur-
9 suant to paragraph (1)(C) publicly available in
10 a comprehensible format (as described in sub-
11 section (e)(2)(D)(ii)), including by publication
12 on the Hospital Compare Internet Web site of
13 the Department of Health and Human Services;
14 and

15 “(B) provide for the auditing of such infor-
16 mation for accuracy as a part of the process of
17 determining whether the participating hospital
18 is in compliance with the conditions of its
19 agreement with the Secretary under section
20 1866, including under subsection (a)(1)(Y) of
21 such section.

22 “(e) RECORDKEEPING; COLLECTION AND REPORT-
23 ING OF QUALITY DATA; EVALUATION.—

24 “(1) RECORDKEEPING.—Each participating
25 hospital shall maintain for a period of at least 3

1 years (or, if longer, until the conclusion of any pend-
2 ing enforcement activities) such records as the Sec-
3 retary deems necessary to determine whether the
4 hospital has implemented a hospital-wide staffing
5 plan for nursing services pursuant to subsection (a).

6 “(2) COLLECTION AND REPORTING OF QUALITY
7 DATA ON NURSING SERVICES.—

8 “(A) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary shall
9 require the collection, aggregation, mainte-
10 nance, and reporting of quality data relating to
11 nursing services furnished by each participating
12 hospital.

13 “(B) USE OF ENDORSED MEASURES.—In
14 carrying out this paragraph, the Secretary shall
15 use only quality measures for nursing-sensitive
16 care that are endorsed by the consensus-based
17 entity with a contract under section 1890(a).

18 “(C) USE OF QUALIFIED THIRD PARTY EN-
19 TITIES FOR COLLECTION AND SUBMISSION OF
20 DATA.—

21 “(i) IN GENERAL.—A participating
22 hospital may enter into agreements with
23 third party entities that have demonstrated
24 expertise in the collection and submission
25 of quality data on nursing services to col-

1 lect, aggregate, maintain, and report the
2 quality data of the hospital pursuant to
3 subparagraph (A).

4 “(ii) CONSTRUCTION.—Nothing in
5 clause (i) shall be construed to excuse or
6 exempt a participating hospital that has
7 entered into an agreement described in
8 such clause from compliance with require-
9 ments for quality data collection, aggrega-
10 tion, maintenance, and reporting imposed
11 under this paragraph.

12 “(D) REPORTING OF QUALITY DATA.—

13 “(i) PUBLICATION ON HOSPITAL COM-
14 PARE WEB SITE.—Subject to the suc-
15 ceeding provisions of this subparagraph,
16 the Secretary shall make the data sub-
17 mitted pursuant to subparagraph (A) pub-
18 licly available, including by publication on
19 the Hospital Compare Internet Web site of
20 the Department of Health and Human
21 Services.

22 “(ii) COMPREHENSIBLE FORMAT.—
23 Data made available to the public under
24 clause (i) shall be presented in a clearly
25 understandable format that permits con-

1 consumers of hospital services to make mean-
2 ingful comparisons among hospitals, in-
3 cluding concise explanations in plain
4 English of how to interpret the data, of the
5 difference in types of nursing staff, of the
6 relationship between nurse staffing levels
7 and quality of care, and of how nurse
8 staffing may vary based on patient case
9 mix.

10 “(iii) OPPORTUNITY TO CORRECT ER-
11 RORS.—The Secretary shall establish a
12 process under which participating hospitals
13 may review data submitted to the Sec-
14 retary pursuant to subparagraph (A) to
15 correct errors, if any, contained in that
16 data submission before making the data
17 available to the public under clause (i).

18 “(3) EVALUATION OF DATA.—The Secretary
19 shall provide for the analysis of quality data col-
20 lected from participating hospitals under paragraph
21 (2) in order to evaluate the effect of hospital-wide
22 staffing plans for nursing services implemented pur-
23 suant to subsection (a) on—

24 “(A) patient outcomes that are nursing
25 sensitive (such as pressure ulcers, fall occur-

1 rence, falls resulting in injury, length of stay,
2 and central line catheter infections); and

3 “(B) nursing workforce safety and reten-
4 tion (including work-related injury, staff skill
5 mix, nursing care hours per patient day, va-
6 cancy and voluntary turnover rates, overtime
7 rates, use of temporary agency personnel, and
8 nurse satisfaction).

9 “(f) REFUSAL OF ASSIGNMENT.—A nurse may refuse
10 to accept an assignment as a nurse in a participating hos-
11 pital, or in a unit of a participating hospital, if—

12 “(1) the assignment is in violation of the hos-
13 pital-wide staffing plan for nursing services imple-
14 mented pursuant to subsection (a); or

15 “(2) the nurse is not prepared by education,
16 training, or experience to fulfill the assignment with-
17 out compromising the safety of any patient or jeop-
18 ardizing the license of the nurse.

19 “(g) ENFORCEMENT.—

20 “(1) RESPONSIBILITY.—The Secretary shall en-
21 force the requirements and prohibitions of this sec-
22 tion in accordance with the succeeding provisions of
23 this subsection.

1 “(2) PROCEDURES FOR RECEIVING AND INVESTIGATING COMPLAINTS.—The Secretary shall establish procedures under which—

2 “(A) any person may file a complaint that
3 a participating hospital has violated a require-
4 ment of or a prohibition under this section; and

5 “(B) such complaints are investigated by
6 the Secretary.

7 “(3) REMEDIES.—Except as provided in para-
8 graph (5), if the Secretary determines that a partici-
9 pating hospital has violated a requirement of this
10 section, the Secretary—

11 “(A) shall require the hospital to establish
12 a corrective action plan to prevent the recur-
13 rence of such violation; and

14 “(B) may impose civil money penalties
15 under paragraph (4).

16 “(4) CIVIL MONEY PENALTIES.—

17 “(A) IN GENERAL.—In addition to any
18 other penalties prescribed by law, the Secretary
19 may impose a civil money penalty of not more
20 than \$10,000 for each knowing violation of a
21 requirement of this section, except that the Sec-
22 retary shall impose a civil money penalty of
23 more than \$10,000 for each such violation in
24
25

1 the case of a participating hospital that the
2 Secretary determines has a pattern or practice
3 of such violations (with the amount of such ad-
4 ditional penalties being determined in accord-
5 ance with a schedule or methodology specified
6 in regulations).

7 “(B) PROCEDURES.—The provisions of
8 section 1128A (other than subsections (a) and
9 (b)) shall apply to a civil money penalty under
10 this paragraph in the same manner as such
11 provisions apply to a penalty or proceeding
12 under section 1128A.

13 “(C) PUBLIC NOTICE OF VIOLATIONS.—

14 “(i) INTERNET WEB SITE.—The Sec-
15 retary shall publish on an appropriate
16 Internet Web site of the Department of
17 Health and Human Services the names of
18 participating hospitals on which civil
19 money penalties have been imposed under
20 this section, the violation for which the
21 penalty was imposed, and such additional
22 information as the Secretary determines
23 appropriate.

24 “(ii) CHANGE OF OWNERSHIP.—With
25 respect to a participating hospital that had

1 a change in ownership, as determined by
2 the Secretary, penalties imposed on the
3 hospital while under previous ownership
4 shall no longer be published by the Sec-
5 retary of such Internet Web site after the
6 1-year period beginning on the date of the
7 change in ownership.

8 “(5) PENALTY FOR FAILURE TO COLLECT AND
9 REPORT QUALITY DATA ON NURSING SERVICES.—

10 “(A) IN GENERAL.—In the case of a par-
11 ticipating hospital that fails to comply with re-
12 quirements under subsection (e)(2) to collect,
13 aggregate, maintain, and report quality data re-
14 lating to nursing services furnished by the hos-
15 pital, instead of the remedies described in para-
16 graph (3), the provisions of subparagraph (B)
17 shall apply with respect to each such failure of
18 the participating hospital.

19 “(B) PENALTY.—In the case of a failure
20 by a participating hospital to comply with the
21 requirements under subsection (e)(2) for a year,
22 each such failure shall be deemed to be a failure
23 to submit data required under section
24 1833(t)(17)(A), section 1886(b)(3)(B)(viii),
25 section 1886(j)(7)(A), or section

1 1886(m)(5)(A), as the case may be, with re-
2 spect to the participating hospital involved for
3 that year.

4 “(h) WHISTLEBLOWER PROTECTIONS.—

5 “(1) PROHIBITION OF DISCRIMINATION AND
6 RETALIATION.—A participating hospital shall not
7 discriminate or retaliate in any manner against any
8 patient or employee of the hospital because that pa-
9 tient or employee, or any other person, has pre-
10 sented a grievance or complaint, or has initiated or
11 cooperated in any investigation or proceeding of any
12 kind, relating to—

13 “(A) the hospital-wide staffing plan for
14 nursing services developed and implemented
15 under this section; or

16 “(B) any right, other requirement or pro-
17 hibition under this section, including a refusal
18 to accept an assignment described in subsection
19 (f).

20 “(2) RELIEF FOR PREVAILING EMPLOYEES.—

21 An employee of a participating hospital who has
22 been discriminated or retaliated against in employ-
23 ment in violation of this subsection may initiate judi-
24 cial action in a United States district court and shall
25 be entitled to reinstatement, reimbursement for lost

1 wages, and work benefits caused by the unlawful
2 acts of the employing hospital. Prevailing employees
3 are entitled to reasonable attorney’s fees and costs
4 associated with pursuing the case.

5 “(3) RELIEF FOR PREVAILING PATIENTS.—A
6 patient who has been discriminated or retaliated
7 against in violation of this subsection may initiate
8 judicial action in a United States district court. A
9 prevailing patient shall be entitled to liquidated
10 damages of \$5,000 for a violation of this statute in
11 addition to any other damages under other applica-
12 ble statutes, regulations, or common law. Prevailing
13 patients are entitled to reasonable attorney’s fees
14 and costs associated with pursuing the case.

15 “(4) LIMITATION ON ACTIONS.—No action may
16 be brought under paragraph (2) or (3) more than 2
17 years after the discrimination or retaliation with re-
18 spect to which the action is brought.

19 “(5) TREATMENT OF ADVERSE EMPLOYMENT
20 ACTIONS.—For purposes of this subsection—

21 “(A) an adverse employment action shall
22 be treated as discrimination or retaliation; and

23 “(B) the term ‘adverse employment action’
24 includes—

1 “(i) the failure to promote an indi-
2 vidual or provide any other employment-re-
3 lated benefit for which the individual would
4 otherwise be eligible;

5 “(ii) an adverse evaluation or decision
6 made in relation to accreditation, certifi-
7 cation, credentialing, or licensing of the in-
8 dividual; and

9 “(iii) a personnel action that is ad-
10 verse to the individual concerned.

11 “(i) RELATIONSHIP TO STATE LAWS.—Nothing in
12 this section shall be construed as exempting or relieving
13 any person from any liability, duty, penalty, or punish-
14 ment provided by the law of any State or political subdivi-
15 sion of a State, other than any such law which purports
16 to require or permit any action prohibited under this title.

17 “(j) RELATIONSHIP TO CONDUCT PROHIBITED
18 UNDER THE NATIONAL LABOR RELATIONS ACT OR
19 OTHER COLLECTIVE BARGAINING LAWS.—Nothing in
20 this section shall be construed as—

21 “(1) permitting conduct prohibited under the
22 National Labor Relations Act or under any other
23 Federal, State, or local collective bargaining law; or

1 “(2) preempting, limiting, or modifying a collec-
2 tive bargaining agreement entered into by a partici-
3 pating hospital.

4 “(k) REGULATIONS.—

5 “(1) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary shall pro-
6 mulgate such regulations as are appropriate and
7 necessary to implement this section.

8 “(2) IMPLEMENTATION.—

9 “(A) IN GENERAL.—Except as provided in
10 subparagraph (B), as soon as practicable but
11 not later than 2 years after the date of the en-
12 actment of this section, a participating hospital
13 shall have implemented a hospital-wide staffing
14 plan for nursing services under this section.

15 “(B) SPECIAL RULE FOR RURAL HOS-
16 PITALS.—In the case of a participating hospital
17 located in a rural area (as defined in section
18 1886(d)(2)(D)), such participating hospital
19 shall have implemented a hospital-wide staffing
20 plan for nursing services under this section as
21 soon as practicable but not later than 4 years
22 after the date of the enactment of this section.

23 “(l) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

24 “(1) DECLARED STATE OF EMERGENCY.—The
25 term ‘declared state of emergency’ means an offi-

1 cially designated state of emergency that has been
2 declared by the Federal Government or the head of
3 the appropriate State or local governmental agency
4 having authority to declare that the State, county,
5 municipality, or locality is in a state of emergency,
6 but does not include a state of emergency that re-
7 sults from a labor dispute in the health care indus-
8 try or consistent understaffing.

9 “(2) PARTICIPATING HOSPITAL.—The term
10 ‘participating hospital’ means a hospital (as defined
11 in section 1861(e)) that has entered into a provider
12 agreement under section 1866.

13 “(3) PERSON.—The term ‘person’ means one or
14 more individuals, associations, corporations, unincor-
15 porated organizations, or labor unions.

16 “(4) REGISTERED NURSE.—The term ‘reg-
17 istered nurse’ means an individual who has been
18 granted a license to practice as a registered nurse in
19 at least 1 State.

20 “(5) SHIFT.—The term ‘shift’ means a sched-
21 uled set of hours or duty period to be worked at a
22 participating hospital.

23 “(6) UNIT.—The term ‘unit’ means, with re-
24 spect to a hospital, an organizational department or
25 separate geographic area of a hospital, including a

1 burn unit, a labor and delivery room, a post-anes-
2 thesia service area, an emergency department, an
3 operating room, a pediatric unit, a stepdown or in-
4 termediate care unit, a specialty care unit, a telem-
5 etry unit, a general medical care unit, a subacute
6 care unit, and a transitional inpatient care unit.”.

○