

2/25/2025

My name is Ellen Downing, I am the Administrator of West View Nursing Home. West View has a Ventilator Unit. There are only 2 Nursing Homes in the state of Rhode Island that have Ventilator Units. This unit is very complex and has a high acuity of medical needs. Many of our residents rely on a ventilator to breathe 24/7. We have Respiratory Therapists that spend at least 90% of their time hands on with residents at the bed side. They provide trach changes, frequent suctioning, breathing treatments, cannula changes/cleaning, Ventilation monitoring and many more skills and treatments. At West View we have at least 2-3 Respiratory Therapists 24 hours per day. This equates to approximately 416 hours per week, 1,664 hours per month, 6,656 hours per quarter and 26,624 hours per year. ALL THESE HOURS ARE NOT COUNTED TOWARDS our direct care hours, yet again 90% of their day, are spent directly with our residents. The other 10% is documentation.

I urge you to look at the definition of direct care staff and add key positions. The penalties we are facing is not sustainable for any Nursing Home in the state of Rhode Island.

We need help to keep our residents in their Homes. No one in the population we serve should worry about being homeless.



Ellen Downing LNHA/BSW

Administrator