

# The RAT Rules



The RAT is completed at the end of the shift looking back. It is not a prediction of what will happen but an estimate of what has already happened.

The idea is to identify all the nursing time that can be attributed to an individual patient. NB Do not include student nurses.

## What to record:

- Time spent with each patient on a one-to-one basis, on or off the ward.
- Time spent with a group of patients, the total time distributed among the patients according to the clinician's estimate of proportions.
- Time spent coordinating individual patient's care (may include family).
- Time spent writing reports that can be attributed to individual patient.
- Time spent on the telephone or any other communication that can be attributed to a specific patient.
- Time in a meeting about a specific patient (may include family).
- Time off the ward escorting an individual patient even though that patient may be temporarily in the care of another Health care provider. E.g. escort to dentist, specialist.
- Cooking with a client (against that client only)

*Basically, everything that is time for a specific patient rather than everyone in general.*

## What not to record:

- Nurse time spent cooking for everyone in general should not be recorded against the clients being fed because it is not specific to particular clients.
- Time spent doing medication rounds where the majority of the ward is on medication.
- Any supervisory time where the majority of patients in the ward are being supervised equally. In night-time, for example, most clients will typically receive no specific nursing input and no RAT time
- Ward meetings where the majority of the patients are being discussed routinely.

## What about clients shifting wards during shifts?

- Each ward should record its own nursing hours. We can add them together as required

**Where to record data:**

Ideal: Record time spent initially in the calculation area and then total it up towards the end of the day.

Option: Make an *estimate* of the time received by the client during the shift just completed.

**How to use the calculation area:**

This is left to each individual according to preference. Some examples are:

Calculation area	Total time	
	Hrs:	Min:
10 ,10, 20, 40	1	20
	1	