



Date: December 12, 2025



Oregon Center for
NURSING

FRIDAY HUDDLE

A gathering of Oregon nursing workforce leaders to offer timely updates and share insights from peers and stakeholders.

Nurse Workforce

Rules Advisory Committees (RAC): OHA is convening two RACs; one on [alpha-gal syndrome classification](#) and another about [SB 139 infectious waste rules](#), including how sharps and certain other wastes are contained and labeled. Nurses were encouraged to participate, since these panels rely on frontline expertise and are typically one- or two-meeting commitments. If interested, [click here](#) to learn more.

Behavioral Health Cuts: Huddlers expressed deep concern about significant Medicaid funding reductions in behavioral health, with clinics anticipating 10–40% reimbursement cuts. Huddlers noted likely service disruptions, workforce instability, and increased pressure on psychiatric nurse practitioners as clinics restructure to meet new payment requirements

2026 Friday Huddle Areas of Focus: Huddlers highlighted: stronger nurse advocacy, close tracking of Medicaid and behavioral health changes, support for rural and community care, expanded well-being strategies, support for nursing education, job market concerns for nursing students, and ensuring nurses are represented in major health decisions. If you have other suggestions for what you'd like to make sure we address at the Huddles in 2026, [click here](#) if you'd like to hear other topics.

Nurse Education

Friday Huddle: Extended Cut: If you missed today's extended cut, you can [watch the recording here](#) to learn about OCN's new Oregon Healthcare Workforce Index and how nurse leaders can use it for planning and strategy.

NurseLearn Dementia-Focused Conference is scheduled for [Monday, March 9, in Portland](#), focusing on dementia care and strengthening community-based and long-term care nursing. Sign up on the NurseLearn webpage to get updates.

Resources

Hepatitis B Vaccination for Newborns: The [West Coast Health Alliance and OHA](#) continue to recommend routine newborn hepatitis B vaccination, with concerns that insurers could use federal shifts to deny coverage despite strong evidence of benefit.

ICE Presence at Legacy Emanuel: [ONA shared nurse reports](#) outlining concerns about ICE presence at Legacy Emanuel when detainees are treated there. An [OPB story](#) highlighted nurse accounts of moral distress, potential HIPAA violations, and fears that immigration enforcement activity may shape care decisions, patient trust, and staff safety.

OHA Rising Health Care Costs Survey: Take a look at [OHA's survey inviting input](#) on how rising costs are affecting access, affordability, and workforce stability across Oregon communities.

We will see you at the next Friday Huddle on Jan. 16!
We hope you have a great holiday and Happy New Year!

Next Friday Huddle:

Friday, January 16th, at 8:00 a.m.

[Register Here!](#)

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