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# On The Job Back Injuries

What you need to know about OSHA, JCAHO and CMS regulations and standards... and how to analyze the real cost of those injuries.

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**“Nursing personnel have the highest claim rates related to back strain, pain and injury of any occupation or industry.”<sup>7</sup>**

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## OSHA

Each employer shall furnish to each of his employees a place of employment which is free from recognized hazards that are causing or are likely to cause death or serious physical harm to his employees. **1**

Manual lifting of residents be minimized in all cases and eliminated when feasible. Employers implement an effective ergonomic process that: provides management support; involves employees; identifies problems; implements solutions; addresses reports of injuries; provides training; and evaluates ergonomics efforts. **2**

## JCAHO

**Standard EC.1.10** The hospital\* manages safety risks. *Elements of Performance:* The hospital conducts proactive risk assessments that evaluate the potential adverse impact of buildings, grounds, equipment, occupants, and internal physical systems on the safety and health of patients, staff and other people coming to the hospital's facilities...and the hospital uses the risks identified to select and implement procedures and controls to achieve the lowest potential for adverse impact on the safety and health of patients, staff and other people coming to the hospital's facilities. **3**

**Standard EC.9.10** The hospital monitors conditions in the environment. *Elements of Performance:* The hospital monitors conditions in the environment including injuries to patients or others coming to the hospital's facilities as well as incidents of property damage and occupational illnesses and injuries. **4**

## CMS

**Medicare Conditions of Participation (CoPs)** Compliance with Federal, State and local laws. (a) The hospital must be in compliance with applicable Federal laws related to the health and safety of patients. The hospital must be approved as meeting standards for licensing established by the agency of the State or locality responsible for licensing hospitals. CFR 482.11 **5**

\*The term Hospital also refers to all types of medical facilities.

# Facts You Should Know

## 2

12% of nurses leave the profession annually as the result of back injury. **6**

Direct costs associated with occupational back injuries of health care providers average \$37,000. Indirect costs associated with back injuries can range from \$147,000 to \$300,000. **14**

6.1% of private sector employees suffered 5.7 million workplace injuries and illnesses. 46% of those injury cases required days away from work for recuperation or restricted work activity. **8**

A total of 626,000 lost workdays due to musculoskeletal disorders (MSDs) are reported to the Bureau of Labor Statistics, accounting for \$1 of every \$3 spent for workers' compensation in that year. **13**

Work-related injuries potentially affect every aspect of life. **9**

Work-related musculoskeletal disorders (MSDs) currently account for one-third of all occupational injuries and illnesses reported to the Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS) each year. **10**

Research demonstrates that specific interventions can reduce the reported rate of musculoskeletal disorders for workers who perform high-risk tasks. **11**

Employers pay more than \$15-\$20 billion in workers' compensation costs for musculoskeletal disorders (MSDs) every year. **12**

# Benefits of Using Disposable Patient Transfer Devices

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- Reduced staff back injury.
- Reduced possibility of cross contamination.
- Up to 48% lower insurance premiums. **15**
- Up to 95% reduction in back injuries. **16**
- Reduce Workers' Compensation claims.
- Increased staff safety.
- Reduced time spent locating transfer device.

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## Footnotes

**1** Section 5A(1) of the OSHA act known as the General Duty Clause. **2** OSHA Ergonomics Guidelines. **3; 4** Joint Commission on Accreditation of Healthcare Organizations (JCAHO) 2004 Standards. **5** Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS); CFR 482 **6** SSM Online 9-12-2003, The AORN's Information Resource for Perioperative Leaders. **7** AORN Position Statement on Workplace Safety; "Working conditions are major factor in retaining current nurse workforce," Legislative Network for Nurses 18 (Sept.10, 2001). **8; 9; 10** Department of Labor Occupational Safety and Health Administration; 29 CFR Part 1910[Docket No. S-777]RIN No. 1218-AB36 Ergonomics Program. **11** Work-Related Musculoskeletal Disorders: The Research Base. **12; 13** Bureau of Labor Statistics DEPARTMENT OF LABOR Occupational Safety and Health Administration 29 CFR Part 1910. **14** AORN's Position Statement on Workplace Safety. **15; 16** Premier, Inc., Back Injury Prevention; Preventing Back Injuries in Patient Care; (Highlights aspects of successful ergonomics programs from reporting hospitals).

# Cost Analysis of Expenses Resulting From Back Injuries

Period Covered  to

Department Covered  O.R.  Other  Facility-wide

Source of Information

# of Claims Reviewed

Costs	Total Cost
1 Treatment	\$ <input type="text"/>
2 Diagnostic Testing Required	\$ <input type="text"/>
3 Staff Time Off Due to Injury	\$ <input type="text"/>
4 Cost of Replacement Staff	\$ <input type="text"/>
5 Workers' Compensation Claim	\$ <input type="text"/>
6 Cost of Investigating and Reporting	\$ <input type="text"/>
7 Increase to Facility's Insurance Premium	\$ <input type="text"/>
8 Increase in Liability Reserves	\$ <input type="text"/>
9 Attorney's Fees	\$ <input type="text"/>
10 Cost of Settlement	\$ <input type="text"/>
11 Other:	\$ <input type="text"/>
12 <input type="text"/>	\$ <input type="text"/>
13 <input type="text"/>	\$ <input type="text"/>
<b>Total Cost For The Period</b>	\$ <input type="text"/>

Cost of SMI product(s) to reduce/solve problem (\$1.50 per patient)

Potential cost savings per year

Nurse inspired innovative product(s) to solve this issue are available from Sandel Medical Industries, LLC.

**Z-Slider™ Disposable Patient Transfer Device** Back Injury & Cross Contamination Prevention

Prepared by

Title  Date

**Make safety a line item in your budget.**

## Associated Websites

**[www.jcaho.org](http://www.jcaho.org)**

Joint Commission on Accreditation of Healthcare Organizations

**[www.osha.gov](http://www.osha.gov)**

Occupational Safety and Health Administration

**[www.cms.hhs.gov/regulations](http://www.cms.hhs.gov/regulations)**

Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (regulations)

**[www.aorn.org](http://www.aorn.org)**

Association of Perioperative Registered Nurses

**[www.bls.gov](http://www.bls.gov)**

Department of Labor, Bureau of Labor Statistics

**[www.premiersafetyinstitute.org](http://www.premiersafetyinstitute.org)**

Premier Purchasing Partners Safety Website

## Partial List of Facilities Using Our Products

**California Hospital Medical Center** Los Angeles, CA

**Tampa General Hospital** Tampa, FL

**Northwestern Memorial Hospital** Chicago, IL

**V.A. Medical Center** Louisville, KY

**Hillcrest Medical Center** Tulsa, OK



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