

What the Experts Say

Lateral Transfers: Potential for Staff Injury



NURSING INJURY

American Nurses Association (ANA)

4,614 nurses responded to a 2011 ANA survey and their top three health and safety concerns were:

1. Acute/chronic effects of stress and overwork (74%)
2. **Disabling musculoskeletal injuries (62%)***
3. Contracting an infectious disease (43%)

**emphasis added*

2011 ANA Health and Safety Survey. American Nurses Association. 2011.

AORN

In an 8-hour shift, the cumulative weight that nurses lift is equal to 1.8 tons.

Safe Patient Handling and Movement in the Perioperative Setting. AORN Toolkit. Association of periOperative Registered Nurses. 2014.

Bureau of Labor Statistics 2008 Injury Incident Rates

(per 10,000 full time workers)

- | | |
|-------------------------------------|-------|
| • Nursing/Health Care Support | 132.1 |
| • Nursing/Health Care Practitioners | 46.4 |
| • Construction Industry | 74.6 |
| • Manufacturing/Production Industry | 50.0 |
| • Maintenance/Repair Industry | 78.2 |

Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS). 2008. Incidence rates for nonfatal occupational injuries and illnesses involving days away from work per 10,000 full-time workers by selected worker characteristic, major occupational group, and selected natures of injury or illness, 2008. <http://www.bls.gov/news.release/osh2.t16.htm>. Accessed February 8, 2010.

2007 Number of nonfatal injuries and illnesses involving musculoskeletal disorders with days away from work

- | | |
|--|--------|
| • Nurses aides/orderlies and attendants | 24,340 |
| • Registered Nurses | 8,580 |
| • Licensed Practical and Vocational Nurses | 2,880 |
| Nursing TOTAL | 35,800 |

- | | |
|---|--------|
| • Laborers/Freight-Stock-Materials Movers | 27,040 |
| • Truck Drivers (Heavy/Tractor-Trailer) | 16,470 |
| • Truck Drivers (Light-Delivery Services) | 10,460 |
| • Construction/Laborers | 6,950 |

Bureau of Labor Statistics. Industry Injury and Illness Data (2007). Tables. <http://www.bls.gov/iif/oshwc/osh/case/ostb1942.pdf>. Accessed October 15, 2013.

SAFE PATIENT HANDLING

AORN

Gaps identified using equipment for Safe Patient Handling and Moving:

- Equipment that has not yet been developed
- Equipment that exists, but has not been purchased
- Equipment that exists and has been purchased, but is not being used

Safe Patient Handling and Movement in the Perioperative Setting. AORN Toolkit. Association of periOperative Registered Nurses. 2014.

Since 2003, 11 states have implemented safe patient handling laws and regulations.

Safe Patient Handling and Movement in the Perioperative Setting. AORN Toolkit. Association of periOperative Registered Nurses. 2014.

H.R.2480 Nurse and Health Care Worker Protection Act of 2013

"Establishing a safe patient handling, mobility, and injury prevention standard for direct-care registered nurses and other health care workers is a critical component reasonably necessary for protecting the health and safety of nurses and other health care workers, addressing the nursing shortage, and increasing patient safety."

H.R.2480 - Nurse and Health Care Worker Protection Act of 2013, 113th Congress (2013-2014). <http://beta.congress.gov/bill/113th/house-bill/2480/text>

SAFE PATIENT HANDLING GUIDELINES

AORN

Ergonomic Tool #1: Lateral Transfer from Stretcher to and from the OR Bed

Potential Risk Factors:

- Excessive reaching
- Pushing or pulling
- Bending
- Awkward posture/position
- Excessive load

Location of Risk/Impact of Task:

- Back
- Shoulders
- Hands
- Knees

Essential Task Elements:

Maintain the patient's body alignment and airway, and support extremities during transfer to protect the patient from a positioning injury.

Task Recommendations:

General lateral transfer

- Use lateral transfer device and 4 caregivers
- Destination surface should be slightly lower

Supine

- Anesthesiologist supports head and neck
- Weight < 157 lb
 - Use lateral transfer device and 4 caregivers
- Weight > 157 lb
 - Use mechanical lift with supine sling, mechanical lateral transfer device, or air-assisted lateral transfer device and 3 to 4 caregivers

Pocket Reference Guide: Safe Patient Handling and Movement in the Perioperative Setting. AORN Toolkit. Association of periOperative Registered Nurses. 2014.

OSHA

Lateral Transfer to and from: Bed to Stretcher, Trolley

For patients who are partially able or unable to assist:

- If patient is <100 pounds: Use a lateral sliding aid and 2 caregivers.
- If patient is 100-200 pounds: Use a lateral sliding aid -or- a friction reducing device and 2 caregivers.
- If patient is >200 pounds: Use a lateral sliding aid and 3 caregivers -or- a friction-reducing device or lateral transfer device and 2 caregivers -or- a mechanical lateral transfer device.

Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA), Guidelines for nursing homes: ergonomics for the prevention of musculoskeletal disorders, 2009:13.

American Nurses Association (ANA)

2.1.7 Reduce the physical requirements of high-risk tasks

The organization will focus on reducing the physical requirements of high-risk healthcare recipient transfer, repositioning, and mobilization, and other applicable tasks through engineering, safe work practice, and/or administrative controls.

4.1.5 Provide and strategically place SPHM technology for accessibility

The organization will develop a process for providing SPHM technology that ensures ease in accessibility. The quantity and type of SPHM technology will be sufficient to minimize risk for the healthcare recipient population served and the environment of care.

Safe Patient Handling and Mobility Interprofessional National Standards Across the Care Continuum. American Nurses Association. 2013.