

Patient Handling

What is the hazard?

Immobile or incapacitated patients in care facilities must frequently be lifted or turned while in bed, and also transferred from beds to chairs for activities such as transport to tests and hygiene care. Employees conducting these patient lifts, in particular when they are conducted manually, can experience serious ergonomic injuries (such as back, neck, and shoulder injuries) because they are lifting heavy, unstable weight while in awkward positions.

Do you have employees exposed to this hazard?

Examples: Nurses, nurses aids, orderlies, physical therapists, and other health care workers who are required to reposition, lift, move, or transfer patients from one surface to another can be exposed to this hazard.

Level of Employee Exposure

YES / NO

If you answered NO, you never have any employees exposed to this hazard, you have completed this hazard assessment tool.

If you answered YES, please complete the table below and continue on with the remainder of this hazard assessment tool.

List the tasks that expose your employees to this hazard.

Estimate the number of employees conducting each task, and the estimated frequency that each task is conducted (first per employee and then for the agency overall (e.g., how many times per day/week/month or year)).

1. Describe task that exposes employees to this hazard	2. How often, on average, would an individual employee conduct this task? (list either times per week, per month, or per year, whichever best applies).	3. How many employees do you have who conduct this task?	4. Multiply the answer for #2 by the answer for #3 to get a total exposure for your employees.
<i>Example: Transfer a patient from bed to wheelchair for transport to test.</i>	<i>6 times per day</i>	<i>60 employees</i>	<i>360 times per day</i>

Use of Technical Standard / Regulation / Guideline

What regulation, standard, or guideline do you follow to protect employees from this hazard, if any?

Upper Management Support / Policy / Full Hierarchy Accountability

Who is in charge of ensuring that employees are kept safe from this hazard? A) At the senior management level. B) During day-to-day operations.
Is there a written policy on patient handling?

How does the agency ensure that the regulation or policy relative to this hazard is followed by all employees?

Training / Certification

What training have employees received on safe patient handling?
Is this a one-time training?
If no, how often does re-training occur?
When are new employees trained?
Please provide general information on training content.

Is there any special license, qualification or amount of training required before an employee can conduct the tasks you listed above under the second question?

CONTROLS

Controls - Administrative

What types of lifts/transfers do employees conduct at your facility?

What is the patient to caregiver ratio?

Are there any manual lift scenarios which are prohibited by agency policy?

Controls - Equipment (Patient Handling Assist) - Have

Does the facility have any assist equipment?
For what types of transfers/lifts/repositioning?
(Typical include for patient transfers includes:
Manual devices: gait belt, shower beds, lateral transfer mat, repositioning sheet, transfer slide boards, trapeze bars)
Mechanical devices: universal/hammock sling, band/leg sling, mechanical lifts stand-assist lifts, electric beds, pneumatic tub chairs)
What condition is it in?

How often is it inspected?

Were employees trained in its use and maintenance?

Is it labeled with any "approval" designation?

How was this equipment selected?

Do you have the all the correct types of patient handling equipment you need to cover all the types of lifts/transfers conducted at your facility?

Do you have enough of this equipment to cover all lifts/transfers, given that there may be multiple lifts/transfers occurring at the same time?

Controls - Equipment (Patient Handling Assist) – Use

How is it determined when this lift assist equipment should be used?

By regulation or standard?

By your written policy?

By specific criteria such as lift type, weight of patient, etc.?

Always use for certain tasks?

Case-by-case determination?

There is no method for determining when lift assist equipment is used.

When safety equipment is supposed to be used, how frequently is it actually used?

Always mostly half-the-time sometimes never

Emergency Response Planning

Is there a plan in place to respond to an accident or emergency with this hazard?

Concerns / Near Misses / Accidents

Is there a designated person to whom employees go with complaints or concerns about this hazard?

Is there a formal reporting procedure for near misses (narrowly avoided accidents)?

Is there a formal reporting procedure for accidents/injuries/illnesses with this hazard?

Have you had any accidents or near misses with this hazard? Please give an estimated date and brief description.

Prevention

Are ergonomic implications considered when purchasing equipment such as beds?

For planning of a new facility, a facility renovation, or a smaller facility upgrades, is minimizing of ergonomic hazards considered at the design phase?

In the “Level of Employee Exposure” section, you identified tasks that expose employees to the hazard assessed in this tool.

Can you identify any ways that would eliminate or reduce employee exposure to this hazard?

For example, can you eliminate the hazardous task?

Modify the hazardous task?

What would be needed to implement these preventive measures?

Other / Comments / Anything You Want to Add

Are there any other specific controls to protect employees from this hazard?

Any other general comments:

IF YOU HAVE QUESTIONS OR NEED ASSISTANCE WITH THIS DOCUMENT,
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