

Safe Patient Handling Corner

We Are Watching Your Back!!

Musculoskeletal Disorders (MSD) among health care workers are high and cost millions of dollars. Daily repetitive movements of patients affect the musculoskeletal system. Repositioning, lifting, and lateral movements of patients, put the health care worker at risk for a musculoskeletal injury.

Since 2003, the American Nurses Association Handle with Care Campaign strives to reduce back injuries and other musculoskeletal disorders. Education and training is paramount in foresting an ergonomically healthy environment.

Nine states have enacted "safe patient handling" legislation."

Safe Patient Handling Act sponsored by Senators Joseph Vitale and Loretta Weinburg was signed into law by Gov. Corzine in January 2008. This law requires licensed health care facilities to establish guidelines for **handling** patients safely to prevent **patient** and/or health care worker injuries.

Our goal here at Liberty is to establish a healthy ergonomic environment.

Jersey City Medical Center is committed to providing **safe** care to patients and being a **safe** workplace for employees. Our safety program includes the use of **safe patient handling** devices when caring for patients. The devices will be used to handle, move, transfer, lift, or change the positions of the **patient** based on the patient's condition. Manually lifting of the **patient** will be kept to a minimum.

Jersey City Medical Center has partnered with Prevent, Inc. to establish a **Safe Patient Handling** Program. Our goals are:

1. Promote safety and comfort to our patients
2. Help to prevent muscular-skeletal injuries in health care providers
3. Enhance **patient** outcomes

Please review the enclosed **policy** and **decision making tree**. You are then to complete the tutorial. There is a post test that you must complete. The test is set up so that you must select the correct answer before you can go to the next question. Once you complete the module, please print out the certificate. Please put your name and specific nursing unit that you work on the certificate. You will bring this certificate with you to one of the hands on training that you are assigned to attend by your manager. Hands on training starts August 22, 2011.

As part of our process, patients will be assessed if they need a lift device. A sticker identifying the need for a lift device will be placed on the patient's ID band.

Each **patient** area will have a designated area for the clean slings. Designated bins for the dirty slings will be available also.

If you have any questions, please feel free to contact:

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Chair of the **Safe Patient Handling** Committee

1. Review the **Safe Patient Handling Policy** »

2. Review the **Safe Patient Handling Decision Guide** »

3. Launch the Online Learning Module »

