

Safe Patient Handling Checklist

(aligned with RCW 70.41.390)

- The hospital has a safe patient handling committee (due 2/1/2007)
(new committee or functions assigned to an existing committee)
 - Committee purpose is to design and recommend implementation of a safe patient handling program.
 - Half of safe patient handling committee members are frontline (nonmanagerial) employees who provide direct care to patients unless doing so will adversely affect patient care.

 - The hospital has a safe patient handling program (due 12/1/2007)
 - Implement a safe patient handling policy for all hospital shifts/units.
 - Conduct a safe patient handling hazard assessment; consider patient-handling tasks, types of nursing units, patient population(s), and physical environment.
 - Develop a process to identify use of the safe patient handling policy based on patient condition and availability of lift equipment/lift teams; policy includes a means to address medical contraindications to use lift or transfer aids/assistive devices for particular patients.
 - Conduct an annual performance evaluation of the program to determine effectiveness with evaluation results reported to the safe patient handling committee.
 - Evaluation determines the extent to which implementation of the program resulted in a reduction of musculoskeletal disorder claims and days of lost work attributable to musculoskeletal disorder caused by patient handling.
 - Include recommendations to increase the safe patient handling program's effectiveness.
 - For hospital construction/remodeling of a unit where patient handling occurs, consider incorporating patient handling equipment or necessary physical space to add equipment.
 - The hospital has at minimum (due 1/30/2010):
 - One readily available lift per acute care unit on the same floor (unless the safe patient handling committee determines a lift is unnecessary in the unit)
 - One lift for every 10 acute care inpatient beds
 - Equipment for use by lift teams
 - The hospital trains on policies, equipment, and devices at least annually.
 - The hospital has a procedure for hospital employees to refuse to perform/be involved in patient handling or movement that the hospital employee believes in good faith will expose a patient or employee to an unacceptable risk of injury.
- *A hospital employee who in good faith follows the procedures shall not be disciplined by the hospital for refusal to perform safe patient handling/ movement.