

Better Business Starts with Safety. Safety Starts at BWC.



Injury Prevention for the Health Care and Social Services Industry

The health care and social services industry is one of the largest and fastest growing sectors in Ohio's economy, employing approximately 13 percent of the workforce. This fact sheet:

- Increases awareness of the primary injury/illness hazards in the health care and social services Industry;
- Offers recommended control measures;
- Provides resources available from BWC.

Industry specific facts

- Each year, approximately 11,000 employees in the health care and social services industry sustain injuries that result in workers' compensation claims.
- Each year, approximately four Ohioans in the health care and social services sector lose their lives due to occupational injuries or illnesses.
- Approximately 70 percent of all injuries in this sector are caused by overexertion and slips, trips and falls.
- Approximately 15 percent of all injury/illness claims result in eight or more days away from work and cost an average of \$26,000 per claim.

The health care and social services industry includes businesses such as hospitals, long term care facilities, skilled nursing facilities, assisted living facilities, developmental disability centers, child care centers, medical and dialysis clinics and home health-care providers.

BWC has a variety of safety and health services that can assist you with addressing hazardous conditions in your workplace. These include On-site Consultation, Safety Intervention Grants, Training and Video Library Services.

Some of the most hazardous work activities in the health care and social services industry include: working with violent, demented or bariatric patients/residents/clients and exposure to contaminated blood or body fluids.



Injury Prevention for the Health Care and Social Services Industry

Below is one of the primary hazards and/or causes of injuries in the Health Care and Social Services Industry. We recommend the following control measures and BWC resources to help prevent this type of accident from happening in your business. For more information connect with a BWC safety consultant at 1-866-569-7805 or via email at besafe@ohiobwc.com.

Primary hazard/cause:

Overexertion from transferring and repositioning residents and moving materials

Recommended control measures	BWC resources for assistance
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Thoroughly assess residents to determine the safest, most appropriate handling method.• Develop and communicate a safe patient handling and mobility program.• Provide and use mechanical lifting and repositioning assists whenever possible.• Provide adequate space in bathrooms and areas where transfers are made.• Train caregivers and evaluate competency on proper transfer techniques and equipment use.• Ensure adequate staffing and try to maintain consistent assignments.	<p>Ergonomics consulting services e.g. Safe patient handling assessment</p> <p>Safety intervention grants e.g. Lifting/transferring equipment and assistive devices</p> <p>Training courses</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Avoiding Back Trauma Online• Safety and Ergonomics for Extended Care Facilities• Ergonomics: Developing an Effective Process <p>Videos</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Better Way to Lift #440088• How to Help Someone who uses a Wheelchair: Including Walkers, Crutches and Canes #430088• Patient Lifting: Safe Strategies #430123• Resident Transfers: The Safety Way #430139 <p>Safety talks</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Back Injuries• Mechanical Lifting Devices <p>Safety Manuals</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Safety and Health for the Home Healthcare Industry (e-book)

You can find these resources on our website at www.bwc.ohio.gov or by calling a safety consultant at the number listed above.

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Primary hazard/cause:

Slips, trips and falls

Recommended control measures

- Assess facilities and grounds for potential slip, trip and fall hazards.
- Repair and maintain floor surfaces, parking lots and walkways.
- Provide anti-slip floor treatments and mats in hazardous areas.
- Minimize or clearly mark elevation changes or slip, trip and fall hazards.
- Provide adequate lighting in all areas.
- Insist on good housekeeping and use of appropriate footwear.

BWC resources for assistance

Safety consulting services

e.g. Slip hazard and housekeeping assessment

Training courses

- Preventing Slips and Falls Online
- Ladder/Stairway Safety Online

Videos

- Housekeeping (numerous titles)
- Fall Factors: Understanding and Preventing Slips, Trips and Falls #420430
- Tallest Tool in the Toolbox: Using Ladders Safely #420020
- Winter Walking: Avoiding Slips & Falls #490213

Safety talks

- Slips Trips and Falls in Nursing Facilities
- Portable Ladder Safety
- Walking and Working Surface Safety

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Primary hazard/cause:

Open wounds from needle sticks, lancets, knives and other sharp objects

Recommended control measures

- Provide safety engineered needles and sharps such as self-retracting needles.
- Use sharps containers to prevent contact with contaminated sharps.
- Store knives and sharp objects to protect them from accidental contact.
- Ensure the use of appropriate, well-fitting gloves and protective clothing.

BWC resources for assistance

Safety consulting services

e.g. Hazard assessment, personal protective equipment (PPE) assessment

Training courses

- Preventing Cuts and Lacerations Online

Videos

- Needlesticks: Avoiding Exposure #430014
- BBP in Your World: Don't Risk It #430124
- Limiting Exposure to Blood Borne Pathogens in Long-Term Care #430138

Safety talks

- Bloodborne Pathogens
- Preventing Cuts and Lacerations

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Primary hazard/cause:

Getting struck by/striking against objects

Recommended control measures

- Thoroughly assess residents to determine triggers for violence and communicate to staff.
- Develop a violence prevention and management program.
- Implement person-centered care approaches.
- Provide training on de-escalation techniques and non-violent intervention strategies.

BWC resources for assistance

Safety consulting services

e.g. Violence management program assessment

Training course

- Non-Violent Strategies for Caregivers and Other Staff Working Directly with the Public

Videos

- Combative Residents: Mirror Their Reality #430073
- Flash Point for Healthcare #430012
- Shots Fired for Healthcare #430115
- Violence and Home Health Care: Be Smart, Be Safe #430109
- Preventing and Managing Workplace Violence for Long Term Care Managers #400085

Safety talks

- Workplace Security Assessment Reduces Workplace Violence

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Primary hazard/cause:

Chemical exposure

Recommended control measures

- Replace hazardous chemicals and cleaners with less harmful alternatives.
- Train workers on proper chemical handling techniques to minimize inhalation and skin exposures.
- Use appropriate PPE to protect workers from hazards.

BWC resources for assistance

Industrial hygiene consulting services

e.g. Evaluating potential chemical exposures and recommending appropriate control measures and/or PPE

Safety intervention grants

e.g. Chemical handling device(s) to reduce/eliminate manual chemical handling and/or mixing

Training courses

- Hazard Communication
- PPE Selection Criteria
- Respirators: Do We Need Them?

Video

- HAZCOM for Healthcare: A GHS Overview #430142

Safety talks

- New Hazard Communication Requirements
- Game Plan for PPE Safety

Educational guides

- What is Personal Protective Equipment?
- What is Respiratory Protection?

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