

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

June 14, 2013

Contact: Judy Lyle
Executive Director
Association of Occupational Health Professionals in Healthcare (AOHP)
109 VIP Drive, Suite 220
Wexford, PA 15090
j.lyle@kamo-ms.com
800-362-4347

ANA Releases National Standards for Safe Patient Handling and Mobility

The Association of Occupational Health Professionals in Healthcare (AOHP) encourages its membership, as well as other stakeholders in the healthcare field who are invested in Safe Patient Handling practices, to participate in an upcoming teleconference of the American Nurses Association (ANA.) This teleconference, scheduled for Tuesday, June 25, from 10-10:45 am EDT, focuses on the release of *Safe Patient Handling and Mobility: Interprofessional National Standards*, a framework to develop comprehensive programs to reduce the risk of injury to healthcare workers and patients in all settings from manual patient lifting, transferring and re-positioning.

A 2012 Bureau of Labor Statistics report found that nursing assistants ranked first and registered nurses fifth of all occupations in injuries and illnesses related to musculoskeletal disorders that required days away from work. The ANA's standards, the culmination of a year-long effort by a working group representing nurses, physical and occupational therapists, risk managers, ergonomics specialists and other professionals, provide the first universal and consistent foundation upon which to base patient handling and mobility policy, practices, regulations and legislation.

AOHP Region 3 Director Mary Bliss, RN, COHN, noted, "It has been my pleasure to represent AOHP as a member of the work group that helped to develop the ANA Safe Patient Handling and Mobility standards. I will continue to represent AOHP as ANA moves forward to continue its endeavor to have this ANA document become the National Standard for Safe Patient Handling and Movement."

Teleconference attendees will learn about the national initiative to eliminate manual patient handling, reduce musculoskeletal disorders suffered by healthcare workers, decrease patient injuries, preserve patient dignity and increase worker retention by improving the culture of safety in the healthcare work environment. Speakers include:

- Karen Daley, PhD, RN, FAAN, President, American Nurses Association (ANA)

Dedicated to the health and safety of healthcare workers

- Suzy Harrington, DNP, RN, MCHES, Director, Department of Health, Safety and Wellness, ANA
- Ronda Fritz, MA, BSN, RN, Safe Patient Handling Facility Champion, VA-Nebraska-Western Iowa Health Care System
- Robert Williamson, MS, BSN, RN, CWCP, Director, Associate Safety, Ascension Health

Please register for the teleconference at:

<https://www.yourcall.com/events/NERGMUJCMkVDRjg3MzQyNQ==>

AOHP is pleased to be a partner with the ANA in our work to ensure patient and healthcare worker safety. AOHP is a national association representing thousands of healthcare workers whose vision is to be the defining resource and leading advocate for occupational health and safety in healthcare. AOHP promotes health, safety and well-being for healthcare workers through: advocating for employee health and safety; occupational health education and networking opportunities; health and safety advancement through best practice and research; and partnering with employers, regulatory agencies and related associations.

For more information about AOHP, contact Judy Lyle, AOHP Executive Director, at 800-362-4347. For more information about the ANA teleconference, contact Adam Sachs, ANA Communications, at 301-628-5034 or adam.sachs@ana.org.

###