

October 1, 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

AOHP Endorses ANA Safe Patient Handling and Mobility Guidelines

October 1, 2013 - The Association of Occupational Health Professionals in Healthcare (AOHP) endorses the recently published American Nurses Association (ANA) Safe Patient Handling and Mobility (SPHM) Standards. AOHP has long supported safe patient handling and recognizes that safe mobilization of patients is necessary across the continuum of care. The voluntary national guidelines provide a realistic roadmap for the implementation of successful SPHM programs that include active employer and employee participation as essential components, as well as community needs identified within each of the eight standards.

Safe Patient Handling and Mobility: Interprofessional National Standards is the culmination of a two-year collaborative effort among experts from nursing, occupational and physical therapy, ergonomics, architecture, healthcare systems, risk management and other disciplines. This Safe Patient Handling National Standards Working Group of the ANA also sought input from a broad array of professions and individuals through a public comment period. AOHP Region 3 Director Mary Bliss, Illinois Chapter, served as AOHP's representative on the working group, and AOHP encouraged its membership to participate during the public comment period. AOHP's OSHA Alliance document, *Beyond Getting Started: A Resource Guide for Implementing a Safe Patient Handling Program in the Acute Care Setting*, is included in the bibliography of the standards.

ANA developed the guidelines to address the need for broadly recognized, consistent SPHM standards, providing a critical step toward establishing a uniform, national foundation for programs to improve patient and healthcare worker safety. The standards, rooted in evidence-based best practices, outline eight broad areas considered essential to implementing an effective program to safely lift, move and transfer patients. They apply to multiple healthcare disciplines and settings and to different intensity levels of patient care. Main principles include: creating a culture of safety; implementing and sustaining a program; incorporating prevention through design; managing technological resources; educating and training staff; and evaluating the program. The standards are available for purchase by visiting www.nursingworld.org/SPHM-Standards.

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. It is led by an experienced and dedicated group of occupational health professionals representing occupational health nurses across the nation and beyond.

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, or e-mail info@aohp.org.

###