

AOHP 2007 National Conference Education Sessions Abstracts

PRE-CONFERENCE Workshops

Workshop A

Getting Started in Employee Health

A One-Day Program



Presenters:

Aftab Ahmed RN, BSN

Aftab is currently the director of the Employee Health Department for Covenant Health System, Lubbock Texas. He is a graduate from a nursing school in Manchester, England and also holds a bachelor's of degree in Nursing from West Texas A & M. He did public health nursing prior to coming to Lubbock.

Aftab has 25 years of nursing experience in a wide variety of health care settings, including intensive care, nursing administration and occupational health nursing. Aftab has been employed in occupational health since 1994.

In his present position he is responsible for 6,500 employees, physicians, and volunteers for health maintenance. Other responsibilities include Hospital Safety, Decontamination Response Team, Emergency Preparedness Task Force, implementation of safe needle devices throughout the system, injury prevention, and management.

Carolyn Amrich, RN, COHN

Carolyn Amrich began her career as a pediatric nurse at Children's Medical Center Dallas and has been in Occupational Health at Children's since 1991. Carolyn took the exam for certification (COHN) in May 2000. Her department has expanded from Employee Health Services to Occupational Health and Wellness throughout the past 15 years. She began as the sole employee and now has three nurses, one medical assistant and one administrative assistant. The wellness program is expanding and includes Weight Watchers at Work, a walking program called Step Now and a tobacco free program.

Jan Frustaglia, RN, BS, CCM, COHN-S

Jan Frustaglia is a Case Manager for Lovelace Westside Hospital, Albuquerque, New Mexico, currently performing discharge planning and utilization review, part-time. Jan is AOHP's Continuing Education Chair, coordinating the review of continuing nursing education applications. She developed and coordinated *Getting Started*, both On-The-Road and annual workshop presentations, since 2005. In her position as chair, she has been instrumental in developing continuing education articles for the AOHP *Journal* and web site. Jan was the founder and first president of the AOHP Oregon Chapter in 1998. She received the AOHP 2006 Joyce Safian Scholarship Award. With more than 18 years of experience working in both industrial and healthcare occupational health and safety settings, she has contributed chapters to two published books and has published numerous articles in peer-reviewed journals.

Shari Lyons, RN, BSN, PHN, CIV, COHN-S

Shari Lyons is currently the Employee Health Services Manager for El Camino Hospital in Mountain View, California. She has more than 15 years of experience in occupational medicine and infection control. Shari is certified in both Infection Control and Occupational Health. She has been active in the Association for Professionals in Infection Control and Epidemiology (APIC) and AOHP since 1992, serving as president and treasurer of APIC's Wine Country Chapter, and is currently the Government Relations Representative for AOHP's Northern California Chapter.

DESCRIPTION (2007-W001)

Back By Popular Demand! This comprehensive, informative course is designed for the occupational health professional new to the field. Course content is practical and up-to-date, presented by a team of experienced experts. All participants will also receive the 2006 edition of the *Getting Started* resource manual in CD format.

Workshop B
2007 Spirometry Update
A Half-Day Program



Presenter:
John Hankinson, PhD

John Hankinson has published more than 70 journal articles and serves on the Editorial Board for Chest. He has served on most of the American Thoracic Society's Spirometry Standardization committees, including the recent joint ATS/ERS 2005 Spirometry Update. Dr. Hankinson is currently the course director of two NIOSH-approved spirometry courses and is a consultant on several NIH and CDC funded research projects, primary as a quality control reviewer for spirometry conducted during research field surveys.

DESCRIPTION (2007-W002)

This presentation will update health professionals on conducting and interpreting spirometry tests in the industrial and clinical settings. The practical aspect of conducting and interpreting spirometry will be presented, including equipment issues, acceptable maneuvers, and obtaining a repeatable test, with examples from actual spirometry examinations. An update of the recent 2005 American Thoracic Society/European Respiratory Society's recommendations will be presented – equipment recommendations, equipment calibration checks, testing procedures and interpretation guidelines. The benefits and description of a quality control review will also be presented, including automated quality assessment available on many spirometers.

Workshop C
Is It Comp? Or Is It Not?
A Half-Day Program



Presenters:
Arlene Guzik, MSN, ARNP-BC, COHN-S, FAOHN

Arlene Guzik has been a presenter for several professional organizations covering a variety of topics, and has been a speaker at AOHC for the past nine years for both continuing education programs and for concurrent sessions. She is the author of one of AAOHN's Foundation Blocks on Lead Surveillance.

She is experienced as both an internal provider and as an external provider of occupational health services, and she oversees the clinical operations of Lakeside's seven medical clinics, provides on-site staffing of occupational health professionals for companies and provides consulting services to many employers.

As past president of both the Florida State Association of Occupational Health Nurses and the Florida West Coast Chapter, she led both chapters to win the AAOHN Chapter of the Year Award.

Richard F. Johnson, MD, MPH

Richard Johnson has extensive experience as a presenter both locally and nationally to a variety of professionals, including medical, business and professional organizations, including AOHC. Dr. Johnson has specialized in occupational medicine for 25 years and is board certified in both Emergency Medicine and Occupation & Environmental Medicine.

As owner and medical director of a diversified array of occupational health businesses, including occupational medical clinics, physical rehabilitation services and an occupational medicine specialist network, Dr. Johnson has the reputation of being extremely supportive of the role of the occupational health nurse.

Dr. Johnson's support for occupational nursing was rewarded through his receipt of AAOHN's Business Recognition Award in 2003.

DESCRIPTION (2007-W003)

In today's business world, the role of the occupational medicine professional is to determine injury causation. Causation of injury is an important determination of work relatedness in regard to compensability under workers' compensation benefits.

This presentation will cover the various aspects and steps to determining injury causation. The participant will come away from this presentation having gained a good overall understanding of the concept of causation and its defining characteristics. The session will arm the participant with an understanding of the terminology used and its application to practice.

Workshop D



Emotional Intelligence: The Next Competency

A Half-Day Program

Presenter:

Dennis Ondrejka, PhD, RN, COHN-s/cm

Dennis Ondrejka has been conducting workshops on Emotional Intelligence for more than 10 years, and has expertise in affective teaching methods, personal development and motivational methods for change. His research includes affective teaching that addresses a student's emotional intelligence in the classroom.

Dr. Ondrejka is currently an Associate Professor at the Denver School of Nursing, where he teaches undergraduate students and implements faculty development programs.

DESCRIPTION (2007-W004)

Back by popular demand! Originally offered in 2005, this four-hour course discusses the assumptions and research that describe how emotional intelligence (EI) is a KEY component to explaining the difference between adequate performers and those who are considered outstanding. There is little attention paid to the specific development of the emotional self as a conscious process for clinicians, educators and effective leaders. EI is a personal knowing that has been identified as one of the most powerful attributes for becoming a top performer in any vocation or for life in general. Participants will receive an overview of the five core areas of EI and develop a working understanding of the terms and concepts. Participants will have an opportunity to cognitively and experientially become aware of EI in at least two of these EI domains, called "EI clusters," and then develop some sensitivity to the barriers for such personal growth.

Workshop E



Ergonomics in Healthcare: Beyond Patient Handling

A Half-Day Program

Presenter:

Richard Barker

Richard Barker has more than 18 years of ergonomics experience, including more than seven years in health care. He is the Director, Safety Programs for Hill-Rom, where he provides training and consulting services for hospitals. He has also provided safety consulting services for a number of Fortune 500 companies and government agencies.

DESCRIPTION (2007-W005)

The practice of ergonomics has been receiving considerable attention in health care during recent years. Currently, this attention has been largely directed toward the prevention of staff injuries due to patient lifting and movement. While frequent, these are not the only injuries that can be addressed through ergonomics interventions. This presentation examines the risk factors for work-related musculoskeletal disorders, the

wide variety of tasks within the hospital that may place workers at above average risk, and discusses prevention measures. The presentation looks at diverse tasks including electronic charting, housekeeping, laboratories and dietary operations.

Workshop F



Developing and Implementing a Respiratory Protection Program for a Major Healthcare System A Half-Day Program

Presenter:

Stephen A. Burt

Stephen Burt currently serves as Administrator of Employee Safety Programs for Inova Health System in Fairfax, Virginia. He has been involved in surveying healthcare facilities to ensure compliance with OSHA, EPA and JCAHO regulations since the early 1980s and continues to be one of the most popular and dynamic speakers in the nation on OSHA topics for healthcare providers.

DESCRIPTION (2007-W006)

On December 31, 2003, OSHA published the withdrawal of the proposed Occupational Exposure to Tuberculosis standard and the revocation of the Respiratory Protection for M. tuberculosis standard. The most significant outcome was the re-establishment of annual fit testing for all respirators. Then Congress passed the Consolidated Appropriations Act, which provided "[t]hat none of the funds appropriated ... shall be obligated or expended to administer or enforce the provisions of 29 CFR 1910.134(f)(2)...to the extent that such provisions require the annual fit testing of respirators for occupational exposure to tuberculosis." This restriction affected only annual fit testing of respirators used for protection against tuberculosis, leaving intact all the requirements of the respiratory protection standard, including annual fit testing for respirator use against other bioaerosols hazards. This presentation shares the methodology utilized in complying with the complexities of this changing regulatory environment.

Workshop G



Pearls of Practice for Occupational Health Professionals A Half-Day Program

Presenters:

Arlene Guzik, MSN, ARNP-BC, COHN-S, FAAOHN

Arlene Guzik has been a presenter for several professional organizations covering a variety of topics, and has been a speaker at AOHC for the past nine years for both continuing education programs and for concurrent sessions. She is the author of one of AAOHN's Foundation Blocks on Lead Surveillance.

She is experienced as both an internal provider and as an external provider of occupational health services and oversees the clinical operations of Lakeside's seven medical clinics, provides on-site staffing of occupational health professionals for companies and provides consulting services to many employers.

As past president of both the Florida State Association of Occupational Health Nurses and the Florida West Coast Chapter, she led both chapters to win the AAOHN Chapter of the Year Award.

Richard F. Johnson, MD, MPH

Richard Johnson has extensive experience as a presenter both locally and nationally to a variety of professionals, including medical, business and professional organizations, including AOHC. Dr. Johnson has specialized in occupational medicine for 25 years and is board certified in both Emergency Medicine and Occupation & Environmental Medicine.

As owner and medical director of a diversified array of occupational health businesses, including occupational medical clinics, physical rehabilitation services and an occupational medicine specialist network, Dr. Johnson has the reputation of being extremely supportive of the role of the occupational health nurse.

Dr. Johnson's support for occupational nursing was rewarded through his receipt of AAOHN's Business Recognition Award in 2003.

DESCRIPTION (2007-W007)

This fun-filled presentation reviews the common occupational illnesses and injuries encountered by occupational health professionals. The system's approach will cover common injuries by body system, determinant factors of work-relatedness and treatment modalities. The session will assist the occupational health professional to evaluate clinical findings in regard to work relatedness. With more than 40 years of combined experience in occupational health, Dr. Johnson and Arlene will share their experiences and expertise in a manner that is sure to take your skills and knowledge to a higher level.

Workshop H



Building My Skills as an Emotional Intelligent Clinician A Half-Day Program

Presenter:

Dennis Ondrejka, PhD, RN, COHN-s/cm

Dennis Ondrejka has been conducting workshops on Emotional Intelligence for more than 10 years, and has expertise in affective teaching methods, personal development and motivational methods for change. His research includes affective teaching that addresses a student's emotional intelligence in the classroom.

Dr. Ondrejka is currently an Associate Professor at the Denver School of Nursing, where he teaches undergraduate students and implements faculty development programs.

DESCRIPTION (2007-W008)

Emotional Intelligence (EI) is a personal knowing that has been identified as one of the most powerful attributes for becoming a top performer in any vocation or for life in general. Continue your EI training with this advanced class. This four-hour course uses the assumptions of EI research and why it is so difficult to achieve in one's life. Participants will explore in-depth the barriers for such personal growth and then challenge themselves to expand into new skills for using EI at work and in their lives.

Workshop I



"My Chest Hurts" – Nuts and Bolts of Chest Pain Assessment, Intervention and Management A Half-Day Program

Presenters:

Kay Lynn Olmsted, MSN, APRN

Kay Lynn Olmsted is a family nurse practitioner with 26 years experience. She is currently Director and Nurse Practitioner at NurseFirst Family Health Center in Seneca, South Carolina. Kay Lynn is the recipient of the 2001 State Award for Excellence from the American Academy of Nurse Practitioners.

William Michael Scott, MSN, APRN

Michael Scott is a Clinical Associate and Director of Nursing Clinics, Duke University School of Nursing, in Durham, North Carolina. He currently practices with the Division of General Internal Medicine at Duke University Medical Center. Prior to assuming this position, Michael was a nurse practitioner and director of NurseFirst Family Health Center in Seneca, South Carolina, a nurse managed primary care practice.

Description (2007-W009)

It is not uncommon for an employee to present with a complaint of "my chest hurts." The occupational healthcare provider is faced with differentiating the urgency of this problem and deciding if the employee can be treated within the office or requires referral for health care. The etiologies of chest discomfort encompass the spectrum from cardiac, gastrointestinal, neurological, pulmonary, musculoskeletal and

vascular systems to psychogenic disorders such as anxiety. Key concepts of history and physical exam, office-based interventions, diagnostic testing, treatment guidelines, determining what is emergent versus non-emergent conditions, and when to refer will be explored.

General and Breakout Sessions

Shannon Akers, LPN

Shannon Akers is an Occupational Health Nurse and Infection Control Assistant at Missouri Baptist Hospital-Sullivan in Sullivan, Missouri. Her expertise includes the assessment of employee injuries, workers' compensation procedures, nursing management, implementing specialization models for patient initiatives, and practical education emphasizing employee and patient safety issues.

Managing Norovirus in the Workplace... The Occupational Health Perspective (2007-B011)

In November 2006, the Infection Control/Occupational Health (IC/OH) professionals of a small community-based healthcare facility noted an increase in the employee absentee rate. Symptoms included nausea, vomiting, diarrhea, cramps, chills and fever. Collaboration with the local public health agency (LPHA) revealed that a gastroenteritis outbreak was also occurring in the community. Laboratory testing confirmed Norovirus. The LPHA issued a multi-county alert. More than 33 employees and a total of six patients became ill during the outbreak. Interventions by IC/OH consisted of an aggressive hand hygiene campaign, instructions on reporting the onset of illness and criteria for reporting to work.

Daniel T. Altier, PhD, MBA

Daniel Altier has worked in occupational health for more than 14 years. His client base includes non-profit and for-profit companies, in addition to a couple of large metro-Detroit municipalities. Dr. Altier has conducted interventions for individuals and organizations in this area.

Stress & Depression in the Workplace (2007-C004)

Stress and depression are no longer considered extraneous to the work environment. With the focus on efficiency and "doing more with less," these two affective states can be costly to the organization. The indirect costs (i.e. absenteeism and loss of productivity) can be staggering. Yet, the direct costs associated with these states can be equally prohibitive. The individual employee typically presents with these problems, yet the organization can simultaneously be the origin and afflicted with them. Awareness of the individual and organizational symptoms of these affective problems could allow timely interventions for pragmatic and cost purposes.

Cathleen Amwake, OTR/L

Cathleen Amwake is a graduate of the University of Kansas with a BS in Occupational Therapy. Her areas of expertise include resolution of musculoskeletal discomfort, employer services, and anatomy education and training. Focus on the employee demonstrating self management is gained with anatomy education and systematic evaluation programs directed toward this management goal. Evidence-based research programs have been part of the expansion of this program to reveal accurate outcomes.

Can Management Really Control Musculoskeletal Costs in Workers' Compensation? (2007-A009)

Two evidence-based outcome studies will be presented to the audience, providing insight into the study of discomfort and why workers' compensation costs increase when the number of body parts affected increases. The relationship that time has on workers' compensation costs is outlined. The effectiveness of the workers' understanding of anatomy education and its impact on the employees' management of discomfort will be reported. Two different studies will be presented to compare and contrast the effectiveness of educating your workforce on how the body functions.

Joseph J. Austin, MS, MIS, CHMM

Joseph Austin is responsible for implementing risk management strategies relating to county facilities. This includes minimizing exposure pertaining to fines and litigation, as well as employee safety, training and wellness. Recently, he spearheaded the implementation of a Safe Patient Handling Program at a 200-bed county-owned long term healthcare facility.

Accident and Cost Reduction Through Safe Patient Handling (2007-A016)



Back injuries associated with providing patient care are common and expensive. Many of these injuries are preventable. In 2005, a Safe Patient Handling Program (SPHP) was implemented to address this issue at a 200-bed healthcare facility. The result was a greater than 75 percent reduction in associated injuries in the first year. Similar programs have also been associated with increased employee retention and decreased pool staff usage. A case study in the implementation of phase one of a SPHP will be presented. The session will demonstrate that safe patient handling provides benefits to residents, employees and the facility's bottom line.

Peg Bequette, RN, BSN

Peg Bequette has 35 years of nursing experience, from Cardiac Intensive Care to Occupational Health and Medical Case Management. Currently, she serves as Senior Case Manager for the BJC Health System of 27,000 employees, partnering in injury management and programs for reduction of costs and increased safety for work-related injuries. She was part of a team that received the 2003 NORA Award for *Zero-Lift Policy for Long-Term Care Facilities*. She is also a member of the Liberty-Mutual partnership team: *Slips, Trips, and Falls Prevention*, and implemented an ongoing Customized Work Screen for Patient Transporters.

Lynn Canada, RN, BSN

Lynn Canada has 25 years of experience in setting up and managing corporate workers' compensation management programs. She is responsible for developing and implementing occupational health programs for Barnes-Jewish employees. She provides medical case management for work-related injuries and return to work issues, and fosters and promotes a team philosophy between employees, management and medical providers. She provides leadership and training for clinical nursing staff at Barnes-Jewish Hospital Occupational Health department.

Lynn has been a member of AAOHN for 24 years, serving in the following offices:

- Chairperson of 2003 Missouri State Conference
- Vice President of St. Louis Chapter 2003-2005
- President of St. Louis Chapter 2005 to 2007
- Chairperson of 2006 Missouri State Conference
- State level: Member of Nomination Committee 2003-2005

She was a poster presenter at the 2006 National AAOHN Conference and 2005 AOHP National Conference.

Fitting the Right Job to the Right Worker (2007-A012)



The initiation, in August 2003, of a customized work screening evaluation for potential patient transporters has reduced injuries by 66 percent, an exceptional result. DARTs have remained relatively stable when compared to pre-screening levels (8/2002-7/2003) due to changes in OSHA rules governing the calculations of such days. The most significant change has been realized in the area of workers' compensation costs. When compared to pre-screening levels, workers' compensation costs were reduced by 94 percent, and continue to pay additional dividends as the program continues.

JoAnn F. Bunke, MA, RN

JoAnn Bunke is the Midwest Clinical Coordinator for Liko, a global patient lift manufacturer with North American headquarters in Franklin, Massachusetts. She consults with and educates healthcare specialists as they consider or implement a safe lifting environment in their acute care settings. JoAnn has 25 years of experience at the Mayo Clinic in a wide variety of acute care settings and has a Master's Degree in Nursing Leadership.

Infection Control Related to Patient Lifts and Accessories: What You Need to Know (2007-A017)



Understanding and complying with infection control guidelines is a necessity in any healthcare setting. Knowing what to assess and evaluate before implementing the use of mechanical lifts can help you make wise choices regarding equipment and accessories, and better decisions relative to your facility. This session will provide information that will help you better assess your situation and make informed choices and decisions. Methods of cleaning equipment and accessories will be highlighted, and best practice recommendations will be shared.

William Charney

William Charney has more than 20 years of experience directing safety programs in major healthcare delivery systems. He has authored seven books in healthcare safety, including the *Handbook of Modern Hospital Safety*, *The Epidemic of Healthcare Injury in the US: An Epidemiology and Emerging Infectious Diseases and the Threat to Occupational Health in the US and Canada*, among others. William is a recipient of an award given for excellence in occupational health by the California Department of Health, and he is also the recipient of the "Advocacy Award" from the Safe Patient Handling Conference for his outstanding political achievements in lobbying for legislation to protect healthcare workers from ergonomic injury both in Washington State and in other states.

The Legislative Agenda to Protect Healthcare Workers from Back Injury (2007-B002)



There is an epidemic of back injury in the healthcare industry in the United States. In every state, if you combine in aggregate form all the healthcare SIC codes – hospitals, nursing homes, home health, residential care – healthcare workers lead all other industries for MSDs. Manual handling of patients is the cause of this epidemic. Voluntary prevention programs do not keep up with the rate of back injury. The legislative process will be discussed, covering the state regulations that have passed.

Emerging Infectious Disease and the Threat to Occupational Health (2007-B009)



Pandemic flu challenges healthcare delivery systems. Occupational exposure guidelines are still problematic and controversial. A Johns Hopkins survey recently published reported that 38 percent of healthcare workers will not report to work during an emerging pandemic for fear of their health and safety. Occupational exposure and safety guidelines have been underplayed and in some cases (respiratory protection) do not follow scientific principles of exposure. Most hospitals, as currently designed, will act as vectors of exposure, not preventors of exposure. This presentation will outline, using a scientific analysis, the outstanding problems that still exist in protecting healthcare workers during an emerging infectious event. It will critique: 1) the existing protocols found in the Pandemic Flu Plan and its capability as written to protect healthcare workers from transmission including but not limited to Section S4-IV; 2) respiratory protection models; 3) training models for both surface removable cross-contamination and airborne protection; 4) building design ventilation criteria and negative pressure requirements; 5) triage, and; 6) airborne vs. surface removable science for flu transmission and its epidemiology.

John Cherf, MD, MPH, MBA

John Cherf completed his undergraduate studies at the University of Notre Dame. He attended Northwestern University Medical School where he also obtained a Master's in Public Health. He stayed on at Northwestern for his Internship and Residency, in addition to completing an MBA at Northwestern's Kellogg School of Management. Dr. Cherf is fellowship trained in sports medicine and has taken care of several college and professional teams. He has more than 15 years of clinical experience in sports medicine and knee surgery. He founded Midwest Orthopedic Institute, an orthopedic group with full integration of diagnostic imaging, rehabilitation, ambulatory surgery and occupational medicine under one roof.

Dr. Cherf currently practices in Chicago and is one of the founding members of the Orthopedic Department at the Neurologic and Orthopedic Institute of Chicago. As a thought leader in orthopedics, he has published in numerous peer-review journals, speaks internationally and serves on several advisory boards for healthcare-

related businesses. Dr. Cherf recently served as team physician for the Woman's NBA Select All-Star Team when they participated in the 2003 World Cup in Russia and is a team physician for U.S. Soccer.

[Workers' Compensation: Challenges and Opportunities in Orthopedics \(2007-B010\)](#)



Workers' compensation (WC) is big business. It consumes as much as 10 percent of our national gross domestic product when we factor in both the direct and indirect cost. The direct cost alone can be as high as \$50 billion a year. Nearly six million workers are injured annually in the United States, with one million missing time from work. Orthopedics plays a significant role in the WC market. Approximately two-thirds of work-related injuries require orthopedic intervention. The demand for orthopedic services provided through workers' compensation programs is poised for future growth, but benefit structure, delivery and financing are changing.

Patients, payers and providers are the typical stakeholders in an orthopedic private practice. The workers' compensation landscape is more complicated due to varying interests among several entities. In addition to the traditional stakeholders, employers have a significant role and interest. Further, there is often more government regulation and control by our legal system in workers' compensation. These dynamics make expectations and management for the workers' compensation patient different from the typical private patient. It is imperative for orthopedic providers to recognize these differences to operate effectively in this arena.

This presentation on *Workers' Compensation: Challenges and Opportunities in Orthopedics* outlines the fundamental issues involved in the workers' compensation market, analyzes emerging trends impacting future economics and utilization, and discusses the impact on orthopedic health care delivery. This presentation also underscores the importance of workers' compensation for orthopedic programs while addressing the strategic considerations for pursuing this market segment.

Nadia S. El-Ayouby, Physical Scientist, NIOSH

Nadia El-Ayouby has earned three master's degrees from West Virginia University, and has utilized her degree in Occupational Safety and Health Engineering from the School of Engineering for the past 16 years. Currently, she works as a Physical Scientist at The National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health (NIOSH), Personal Protective Technology Laboratory (PPTL) in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania. Nadia is involved in research concerned with studying the efficacy and performance of personal protective clothing (PPC) against chemical, physical and biological hazards. She practiced as an industrial hygienist in the healthcare industry and in the public sector, and has more than 20 publications and abstracts in PPC and the toxicology of exposure. She has participated in the development of several standards for PPC and is a member of AAMI, ASTM, AIHA and AOHP. Nadia represents NIOSH as a liaison at OSHA, EPA, FDA, NFPA and JCAHO. She recently authored a guideline for emergency responders for the selection of PPE (and has completed the first peer review.)

[Preparedness Hygiene Plan Elements for Healthcare Facilities Facing the Threat of Pandemic Flu or Chemical, Biological, and Radiological Agents \(2007-A004\)](#)



Global influenza outbreaks have taken place throughout human history and have claimed millions of human lives. The possibility of an outbreak of influenza on global levels has become a very real and alarming threat following the avian flu outbreak in Hong Kong in 1997 and the SARS outbreak in both Hong Kong and Canada in 2003. Moreover, the events of 9/11 in the United States have raised the possibility of terrorist attacks that utilize chemical, biological, radiological and nuclear (CBRN) weapons of mass destruction. The possibility of such catastrophic events must be examined in regard to the current healthcare system's ability to deal with the after-effects of such events. Would the current healthcare system be able to handle a global health emergency or a catastrophic event without being overwhelmed? To ensure that the current healthcare system is fully prepared for the possibility of these events, it is recommended that healthcare facilities focus on preparedness plans that include an industrial hygiene (IH) preparedness element to address protection of both healthcare workers and patients.

This abstract outlines such an IH preparedness plan that may be used by healthcare facilities and highlights the following requirements: 1) existence of large-capacity mass decontamination units and a protocol with appropriate steps for this effort; 2) off-hospital entry point for victims into a restricted area away from a hospital's regular emergency room, but with a similar lockdown capability; 3) off-hospital isolation units with mandatory engineering controls such as ventilation; 4) personal protective equipment (PPE) to protect first responders and first receivers from hazards; 6) mandatory ventilation for an off-hospital pharmacy; 7) monitoring and laboratory analysis capabilities; and 8) training for personnel who may work in contaminated patient environments.

Guy Fragala, PhD, PE, CSP

Guy Fragala has more than 35 years of experience as an Occupational Safety and Health professional and is a national expert in the application of ergonomics to the healthcare setting. He currently serves as the Senior Advisor for Ergonomics at the Patient Safety Center of Inquiry in Tampa, Florida and is the Champion for the Creating a Safer Environment Program for Sunrise Medical. He has participated in many field research studies, investigating the benefits of an ergonomics-based injury prevention program for healthcare workers. Dr. Fragala has also served as an advisor to OSHA regarding the development of ergonomics programs, standards and guidelines. He has been a consultant to a wide range of American industries, including many healthcare organizations. Dr. Fragala has been an invited guest speaker at numerous national conferences. His book *Ergonomics: How to Contain On-the-Job Injuries in Healthcare*, published by the Joint Commission on Accreditation of Healthcare Organizations, has influenced much of the work today related to healthcare ergonomics and safe patient handling programs.

Preparing Better for Our Aging Workforce (2007-B008)



This presentation will discuss the aging workforce in America and how this will impact the labor force providing direct care in the healthcare industry. The work involved in providing direct care to patients within healthcare facilities is physically demanding and is already creating problems such as exposure to occupational injuries and stressful work environments. Aging workers will be less capable of tolerating the physical demands of many direct care tasks, and severe shortages are predicted of direct care workers. This session will consider strategies for the future such as how the concepts of ergonomics can be applied to provide work environments that will better accommodate the aging workforce and also create safer environments for patients.

Trina Girimont, MSN, ARNP, COHN-S

Trina Girimont is the Director of Occupational Health Services for Shands HealthCare in Gainesville, Florida.

Use of Combined Tetanus/Diphtheria/Pertussis (Tdap) Vaccination in the Healthcare Setting (2007-A008)



Pertussis is a highly contagious communicable disease. Over the past several years, the number of adult pertussis cases has soared past a half million annually. Therefore, adults can transmit this disease to susceptible populations, primarily infants. In October 2005, the Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices (ACIP) recommended routine use of a single dose of Tdap vaccination in adults in lieu of tetanus-diphtheria vaccination. Tdap is highly recommended for healthcare workers who have direct patient care activities.

Catherine P. Gouvin, OTR/L, CHT

Catherine Gouvin is a registered and licensed occupational therapist, certified hand therapist who has worked in psychiatry, in-patient and out-patient rehabilitation, hand therapy and ergonomics. She has been employed as a full-time Ergonomic Specialist at L&M Hospital since 2002, where her efforts have lowered the MSD rate for the hospital. She started the Safe Patient Handling Program in 2005.

Everything Old is New Again or Safe Patient Handling: Rising From the Ashes of a Forgotten Back Safety Program (2007-A011)



L&M Hospital, a 240-bed community hospital in Connecticut, revived its defunct Safe Patient Handling program after years of neglect. This case study will share some "gems" that worked to breathe new life into

the program, from the purchase of new beds to providing lifting equipment and slip sheets. The pitfalls and problems we encountered, as well as the successes, may help you find your way to a more robust program.

Alan Greenwald, MD

Alan Greenwald practiced orthopedic surgery in California from 1980 to 2006, where he specialized in sports medicine and occupational orthopedic care. He is a Qualified Medical Examiner and a member of the faculty of University of California San Francisco. Dr. Greenwald is currently practicing in Washington State.

Current Science of Arthritis Care in Occupational Health (2007-B004)

Osteoarthritis is a prevalent condition in the patient population served by occupational health providers. The cost of treatment creates a large economic burden due to the chronic nature of the disease and expensive treatment options. This presentation will cover the basic science of cartilage, osteoarthritis and applications of this knowledge to the treatment of the disease.

The Science of Cartilage Transplantation Surgery in the Occupation Injured Patient (2007-B014)

Human articular cartilage is a highly specialized structure capable of sustaining significant physical forces. However, it is remarkably poor in ability to heal from injury. The current state of orthopedic research in the area of cartilage repair is focusing on unlocking the biologic mechanisms of cartilage synthesis. The future of this area is going to rely on highly sophisticated cellular engineering, with manipulation of cartilage cells and their chemical environments. The relevance to the injured worker is that recovery and return to function will depend on new science and application of complex technologies.

Janine Jagger, MPH, PhD

Janine Jagger is an epidemiologist specializing in injury prevention and control. Early in her career, her research and advocacy focused on brain trauma and motor vehicle safety. Over the last 15 years, Dr. Jagger has devoted herself to reducing healthcare workers' risks from occupational exposures to bloodborne pathogens. In 1988, Dr. Jagger and colleagues published a landmark study in the *New England Journal of Medicine* which detailed the characteristics of medical devices causing needlestick injuries, and criteria for protective needle designs. That pioneering research provided the foundation for the development of a new generation of safer medical devices.

In 1991, Dr. Jagger developed the EPINet surveillance system to provide healthcare facilities with a standardized system for tracking needlestick injuries and blood and body fluid exposures; it is now used by more than 1,500 healthcare facilities in the United States, and by many others in countries around the world. The dissemination of EPINet has resulted in a massive increase in data on the causes of needlesticks and blood exposures. Dr. Jagger established a voluntary data-sharing network of healthcare facilities using EPINet – the "EPINet network" – in 1992. With 10 years of data from a cumulative total of 84 hospitals, it is the largest continuous database of healthcare workers' at-risk exposures to blood and body fluids in the United States.

Dr. Jagger founded the International Healthcare Worker Safety Center at the University of Virginia in 1994 to help propagate the findings from the EPINet network and to accelerate the transition to safety technology. Data from the EPINet network are the foundation of the Center's research and advocacy, providing important support for new policies to improve healthcare worker safety.

Dr. Jagger is also the founder and editor-in-chief of *Advances in Exposure Prevention*, a quarterly publication dedicated to preventing occupational transmission of bloodborne pathogens in the healthcare work place.

In 2002, Dr. Jagger received one of the most prestigious awards in the United States: a MacArthur Foundation fellowship. The award is given to individuals who have shown "extraordinary originality" and dedication in their professional pursuits. Also, the Advanced Medical Technology Association (AdvaMed,) the largest medical technology trade association in the world, honored Dr. Jagger by naming her "MedTech Hero" for March 2001, for her industry-wide contributions to advancing medical device safety technology.

Dr. Jagger and a team of colleagues are the inventors of six patented safety needle devices, which were honored with a Distinguished Inventor Award in 1988 by Intellectual Property Owners, Inc., and selected for display by the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office for its 1990 Bicentennial Exhibit. In addition to ongoing research and public policy efforts, Dr. Jagger is a consultant to government agencies, private industry, non-profit organizations, and academic institutions in the areas of safer needle design and prevention of healthcare workers' exposures to bloodborne pathogens.

Twenty Years of Progress in Preventing Occupational Bloodborne Pathogen Infections in the U.S.: Where Do We Go From Here? (2007-C001) 

Reducing the risk of infection from bloodborne pathogens among healthcare workers has been a major public health success story in the United States. This presentation reviews the relative contributions of pathogen-specific interventions and medical device design improvements throughout the past 20 years. Areas of non-compliance with protective policies will be identified for future intervention. A role for the U.S. healthcare community in raising the global standard for healthcare worker protection will be proposed.

Chris Johnson

Chris Johnson is a nationally recognized author and speaker. Throughout his career as Director at the Michigan Athletic Club, Chris has developed one of the most successful club-based personal training programs in the country. Chris has earned and maintained the reputation of providing lifestyle modification strategies with integrity and compassion.

On Target Living: Learn the Secrets of Achieving Balance, Energy and Vitality (2007-A001) 

You'll have people asking "What is your secret?" when you adopt these On Target Living practices. Chris has taught thousands of people how to live a life in balance, and he wants to share his practices and insights with you. You will leave:

- Inspired to reach for higher levels of energy, fitness and overall well-being.
- Invigorated and motivated to take better care of yourself.
- Armed with knowledge and practical tools to take immediate action.

This seminar can change your life!

Linda D. Lee, DrPH

Linda Lee has more than 25 years of administrative experience in managerial and technical practice, including budget and business plan development, project management, profit and loss, risk management, operations, safety practices, emergency response and regulatory affairs. Dr. Lee is a nationally recognized speaker, technical expert and author on issues related to safety, health, the environment and regulatory affairs.

The "Business" of Health and Safety: Metrics that Work (2007-A013) 

This session will help participants to understand what metrics are, how they can be used, and the benefits to the user, program or institution. Metrics are the key to communicating with upper management for program development, benchmarking and integration of business operations into health and safety. Metrics can also be used to track real progress, and if not measured, cannot be improved or evaluated. Metrics help with decision making as they relate to the allocation of valuable financial and human resources.

Ronald S. Leopold, MD, MBA, MPH

Ronald Leopold is National Medical Director and Vice President of MetLife Employer-Sponsored Benefits Group. He is a board certified occupational medicine physician who holds a Master's in Business Administration from the Wharton School of Business, the University of Pennsylvania and a Master's in Public Health from Boston University. Dr. Leopold currently serves as industry thought leader for MetLife Institutional Business, focusing on the future of work, health and benefits. His role includes business strategy, sales and market support, and new product development. He is a nationally recognized industry public speaker and provides consultation to private and public organizations.

The Benefits Reconstruction Era: Recalibrating Health and Welfare (2007-B001)

Where are you spending your benefits dollars, and what are you getting for your money? An antiquated health delivery infrastructure that rewards acute care transactions still preempts chronic condition care, prevention and wellness. Rising costs are forcing tough decisions. Employers need to see more relevance for their benefits dollar: survival requires realigning benefits strategies with business realities. Sharing costs, incentives and accountability with individual employees is the new mantra. Employers are disassembling their legacy benefits structures and rebuilding new configurations that will reinvent the industry. This presentation will take on the tough questions facing benefits professionals, and examine how employers are thinking about the future of benefits.

Diane Like, RN, COHN-S

Diane Like is Regional Manager for BayCare HealthCare, a nine-hospital system with more than 17,000 employees. A graduate of Purdue University, she began practicing Employee and Occupational Health Nursing in 1985 and has worked in the field since. She obtained her certification as an Occupational Health Nurse Specialist in 1990.

Your Trip to Success with Analysis of the Physical Requirements of Job Positions (2007-B007)

Analysis of physical requirements for all job positions is used from the time a job offer is made until the employee leaves the company. By having objective information, you are able to effectively determine if the employee is able to perform the essential functions of any position. You can also better manage an employee's return to work from an on-the-job or personal illness/injury without violating ADA or other state and federal requirements. Tools provided will make it easier for the treating physician to document specific restrictions. Learn how the whole process works to allow you to continuously improve.

Barbara L. McCarthy

Barbara McCarthy has 30 years of experience in nursing, and 15 years in Occupational Health dealing with musculoskeletal injuries, patient handling problems and ergonomic issues. She led an initiative that reduced workers' compensation costs by more than 50 percent through the implementation of a No-Lift program. Barbara holds a BSN from Virginia Commonwealth University and is currently pursuing a Master's of Science in Health Promotion from Virginia Tech.

We Handle with Care: A No-Lift Success Story (2007-B012)

This presentation will demonstrate how to dramatically reduce patient handling injuries with the implementation of a practical and affordable No-Lift Program. Participants will learn a brief history of patient handling, the recommended process for assessing patient mobility, an implementation plan, staff accountability measures and projected benefits. Policy procedures, training and scheduling materials will be shared.

Martin Meltzer, PhD (CDC)


Martin Meltzer is the Senior Health Economist and a Distinguished Consultant for the CDC. Examples of his research include the examining responses to smallpox as a bioterrorist weapon, economics of vaccinating restaurant food handlers against hepatitis A, and assessing the economic impact of pandemic influenza. Dr. Meltzer has published approximately 140 publications.

How Many Ill? Estimating the Impact of the Next Influenza Pandemic on the Workforce (2007-C003)

Pandemic influenza can overwhelm a community, causing very serious public health, social and economic problems. Special planning is critical to maintaining continuity of operations during a severe pandemic. Attendees will learn how to use FluWorkLoss, CDC's easy-to-use free software, that estimates the potential number of days lost from work due to an influenza pandemic. Users can change almost any input value, such as the number of workdays assumed lost when a worker becomes ill, or the number of workdays lost due to a worker staying home to care for a family member.

Susan L. Murphey, BS, RDMS, RDCS, CECD

Susan Murphey holds a BS in clinical ultrasound, certification as an Ergonomics Evaluation Specialist and is a Certified Ergonomic Compliance Director. She completed Work Injury Prevention and Workplace Ergonomics Training, and is a member of AOHP, Washington L&I Roundtable and Puget Sound Human Factors and Ergonomics Society. As co-founder of Sound Ergonomics, and a published author, her desire is to guide others in work safety.

True Value – Tips and Resources for Successful Work Safety Programs in Sonography (2007-A003) 

Ultrasound is one of the most lucrative departments in Diagnostic Imaging. Sonographers are a group of highly skilled, specialized professionals critical to a facility's ability to provide tools for the planning of treatment and surgical interventions. Factors inherent in the work activities of sonographers are causing WRMSDs at a rate of more than 80 percent, creating productivity, patient care and staffing concerns.

Management of the injured employee is critical to protecting the bottom line productivity and success of the department. Learn how to recognize work hazards in sonography for developing an effective long-term training program for existing, new or return to work employees.

Milton Mutchnick, MD

Milton Mutchnick is a professor and head of the Gastroenterology Division of Wayne State University School of Medicine. He has spent his career dealing and treating hepatitis. Dr. Mutchnick is very involved with new and emerging treatments for hepatitis B and C. He is most proud of being a retired flight surgeon, with more than 1,000 hours of flying time in fighter aircraft.

Target HCV – HBV (2007-C002) 

Chronic hepatitis B and C are common diseases that often progress over a period of time, resulting in irreversible liver damage and death. Many of these patients are currently in your hospital employee health practice. Treatment has been shown to reduce progression of the disease and diminish the likelihood of cancer in this group of patients, which translates into reducing the cost of workers' compensation claims. This presentation will examine how important it is to ask the right hepatitis screening questions, the treatment management for hepatitis B and C, as well as treatment in the "pipeline" for these diseases.

Tracy Nailor, MD

Tracy Nailor is a graduate of University of Kentucky College of Medicine and is a board certified pediatric specialist. She received a Master's of Public Health from Johns Hopkins University and has been practicing Occupational Medicine for four years. Dr. Nailor is currently a Center Medical Director with Concentra Medical Centers in Atlanta, Georgia. She is a member of the American College of Occupational and Environmental Medicine, American Board of Quality Assurance and Utilization Review Physicians and is a certified MRO.

Jeffrey L. Wainstein, MD

Jeffrey Wainstein is a graduate of Jefferson Medical College in Philadelphia and is a board certified specialist in Emergency Medicine. He practiced emergency medicine for 15 years, and has been practicing Occupational Medicine for more than seven years in Concentra Medical Centers. Dr. Wainstein is currently the AVP of Medical Operations in the Southeast. He is a member of the American College of Occupational and Environmental Medicine and the American College of Emergency Medicine, and is the author of "Tendinitis and Tendinosis of the Elbow, Wrist and Hand." His medical interests include sports medicine, toxicology, travel medicine and trauma management. He is also interested in preventive medicine, alternative medicine, fitness and nutrition, and currently competes in triathlons.

Work-Related Upper Extremity Disorders (WRUEDs) (2007-A015) 

Patients with work-related upper extremity disorders (WRUEDs) have high levels of resultant disability. Successful management of WRUEDs with focus on return to work and activities of daily living requires a knowledge of the most recent scientific data on upper extremity disorders. Emphasis will be on causation, evidence-based treatment recommendations and the use of cost-effective treatment options to achieve excellent outcomes. This course will provide specific practical knowledge for injury diagnosis and management with information on a biopsychosocial treatment model for disability management for providers.

Dennis Ondrejka, PhD, RN, COHN-s/cm

Dennis Ondrejka has been conducting workshops on Emotional Intelligence for more than 10 years, and has expertise in affective teaching methods, personal development and motivational methods for change. His research includes affective teaching that addresses a student's emotional intelligence in the classroom.

Dr. Ondrejka is currently an Associate Professor at the Denver School of Nursing, where he teaches undergraduate students and implements faculty development programs.

Understanding The Maze of Non-rational Thinking (2007-B005)



Most professionals pride themselves in their ability to be rational thinkers and problem solvers. Unfortunately, much of what we experience in the workplace is not solved nor addressed through such a lens. What is being seen more and more is something that is non-rational or unstructured taking control of the decisions and problem solving strategies. With this being so common, it is critical that we develop expertise in understanding and being effective in this type of interaction.

Louise O'Shea

Louise O'Shea, President & CEO of O'Shea & Associates, has more than 300 clients worldwide. She is the co-author of the "Worksafe Victoria Transferring People Safely" document and was also a member of the international review team for the New Zealand Patient Handling Guidelines of 2003. Louise also works as an expert witness in legal cases relating to patient handling and liability.

No Lift Great Shift! (2007-A007)



While evidence has shown that teaching body mechanics is not effective in preventing musculoskeletal injuries to healthcare workers, it has also been shown that purchasing lift equipment is not enough to change clinical practice. This presentation will provide participants with information to develop and implement a safe patient moving and handling program in their organizations. It follows the process from making the case to senior executives for a safe patient moving and handling program through to empowering the staff who are most affected by the change.

Kelly Putnam

Kelly Putnam is the Executive Director of Kailo – a non-traditional approach to worksite wellness developed at Mercy Medical Center-North Iowa. She has a Master's Degree in Health Education from the University of Northern Iowa. Kelly presents frequently at national conferences, provides consulting and has authored several articles on workplace wellness.

Health for Every Body: A New Perspective on Addressing Weight Issues in the Workplace (2007-A002)




There's no denying the tremendous pressure on occupational health practitioners to address the obesity epidemic. Unfortunately, current strategies for helping employees manage their weight have not proven effective, especially in the long-term. This presentation calls for a reconsideration of traditional weight management programs in the workplace, introduces an alternative concept called "Health At Every Size" (HAES,) and highlights a case study of how one hospital applied the HAES principles to their "Health for Every Body" program, with encouraging success.

[Kailo: A Non-Traditional Approach to Worksite Health Promotion \(2007-A005\)](#) 

Although most U.S. companies offer worksite wellness programs, these efforts are often plagued with problems such as low participation, lack of adequate funding and staff, and little to no formal planning and/or evaluation. As a result, most worksite health promotion efforts are doomed to failure almost before they start. This session provides an overview of a non-traditional approach to employee wellness developed at Mercy Medical Center-North that has managed to avoid the pitfalls of many employee wellness efforts and has demonstrated amazing outcomes on its way to becoming one of the most creative and successful programs in the nation.

Dawn M. Sievert, MS

Dawn Sievert is a Quality Improvement Coordinator at the Detroit Medical Center, working on improving patient safety and decreasing hospital-associated infections. She was previously the Antimicrobial Resistance Epidemiologist at the Michigan Department of Community Health for six years. Her responsibilities there included development and implementation of statewide AR surveillance, as well as investigation of AR outbreaks and unusual cases with prevention and control efforts to stop further spread and future outbreaks.

[Methicillin-Resistant and Vancomycin-Intermediate/-Resistant Staphylococcus Aureus \(MRSA/VISA/VRSA\) \(2007-B015\)](#) 

This presentation will provide background on *S. aureus* and its evolution to MRSA, VISA and VRSA. The differences between hospital-associated (HA-) and community-associated (CA-) MRSA will be described in detail regarding risk groups, risk factors, type of infections and resistance patterns. Modes of MRSA transmission, as well as effective prevention and control methods, will be discussed. The difference between infection and colonization will be explained, and guidance will be provided on when to conduct surveillance cultures, when to consider decolonization and when work restrictions are necessary.

Ron Stoker

Ron Stoker is Founder and Executive Director of ISIPS, the International Sharps Injury Prevention Society. He co-authored the Compendium of Infection Control Technologies and is a frequent author of sharps safety and bloodborne pathogen exposure articles for a variety of medical journals. He speaks frequently at both national and international meetings. He has chaired the Safety Device Conference, held in London, on many occasions.

[101 Safety Product Categories \(2007-A006\)](#) 

Each year, many healthcare workers are injured by a needlestick or other sharps injury. Many healthcare workers are not aware of the great variety of sharps safety and blood exposure prevention products that are available. During this presentation, a variety of safety product categories are identified. More than 101 categories are included in the presentation.

Sherry Taxer, RN, COHN/CM, CCM, CPDM

Sherry Taxer has more than 30 years of risk management experience, combining extensive clinical knowledge with expertise in Workers' Compensation, Liability, and Absence Management. She has helped design and implement an Integrated Case Management Program for a self-insured/administered organization with 6,000 employees. As a consultant, she has conducted onsite assessments, review, training and development of policies/procedures. In addition, Sherry has consulted in Absence Management, helping insurers design and implement effective and compliant programs, including integrated services and disease management. Her credentials include RN, COHN/CM, CCM and CPDM. She is a member of ASHRM and state chapters in Oregon, Washington and California, and is a board member of the Oregon State Association of Occupational Health Nurses. She completed her nursing education at Clark College in Vancouver, Washington, and currently is completing her MSN in Nursing Management.

[Business Side of Employee Health \(2007-A010\)](#) 

What are the significant cost drivers for your organization? Learn to develop and demonstrate how the Employee Health Program can show cost savings and impacts significant to some of the major cost drivers for your facility. Learn to use the data to show changes in costs, such as workers' compensation, disability costs, turnover rates, return to work program, healthcare costs, medical malpractice, FMLA, etc. Use the data to show the value of your program.

Janice Van Heest, RN, BSN, ADS

Janice Van Heest has held the position of Employee Health Nurse at Chelsea Community Hospital for nine years. She introduced the idea of auricular acupuncture into the employee wellness program more than two years ago after seeing the impact of this alternative therapy as an adjunct to the employee smoking cessation program and hospital's inpatient detoxification program. Staff have responded very favorably to this modality, especially for smoke stopping, pain relief and relaxation.

Auricular Acupuncture: A New Needle in Employee Health Services (2007-A014)



Sure you've heard about acupuncture, but did you ever think it would be offered, free, to all employees through Employee Health Services? Find out how one progressive community hospital successfully incorporated this alternative therapy into its smoking cessation and wellness programs.

Kent Wilson

Kent Wilson has performed ergonomic and safety evaluations for dozens of healthcare facilities around the country. He is a Certified Ergonomist who takes an active role in the development of regulatory standards. He is a full member of the Human Factors and Ergonomics Society, The National Safety Council and The American Industrial Hygiene Association, as well as an active participant on their Ergonomic and Healthcare committees.

Handling the Bariatric Patient: Ergonomic Issues (2007-B003)



The obesity levels in North America continue to rise at an astonishing rate. As overweight Baby Boomers continue to place pressure on an overtaxed healthcare system, injury rates among healthcare workers due to patient handling will continue to rise. Healthcare workers are already among the highest employee populations for musculoskeletal injuries. These trends will only get worse if healthcare facilities do not address these issues. From the time these obese patients enter the facility until they leave, there are special requirements that need to be in place to accommodate them. Bathrooms, transportation and visits to ancillary departments are just a few of the areas that need modification to accommodate the Bariatric patient.

Robert Williamson, RN, BSN, MS, CWCP




Bob Williamson is the Director of Associate Safety, Ascension Health. In this capacity, he is responsible for the oversight of associate safety and loss prevention programs. Bob has helped develop a system-wide initiative for safe patient handling and has participated in local and national task forces on latex sensitivity, safe sharps/needlestick programs and disability/disease management programs for healthcare workers.

He is a graduate of Saginaw Valley State University with a Bachelor's Degree in Nursing. Additionally, he has completed his Master's Degree in Health Care Administration at Central Michigan University and National Certification in Workers' Compensation at Michigan State University.

Getting To Zero: An Open Forum On Reducing Needlesticks And Sharps Exposures (2007-B006)



This session will be structured in an interactive "Town Hall" format. The facilitator will introduce several talking points that address challenges with BBP exposures, and needlestick and sharps protection. Attendees will then be asked to share their experience regarding proven practice from their place of employment. Additionally, questions from the attendees will be used to facilitate open dialogue and establish "realistic solutions" to bloodborne pathogen exposures.

-  - Basic level
-  - Intermediate level
-  - Advanced level