

MEMORANDUM

DATE: September 10, 2015

TO: Hospital and Nursing Home Administration; Safety and Quality Management; Risk Services

FROM: Brad Dugan, PT, CSPHP
Chairman of Certification
Association of Safe Patient Handling Professionals (ASPHP)

RE: OSHA adds key hazards for investigators' focus in healthcare inspections, with risk from patient/resident handling at the top!

ATTENTION: OSHA Compliance Evaluation Seeking Credentials

The U.S. Department of Labor's Occupational Safety and Health Administration has announced their expansion of enforcement resources in hospitals and nursing homes to focus on five (5) key areas of the most common causes of workplace injury and illness exposures.¹ Musculoskeletal disorders (MSDs) relating to patient or resident handling were at the top of their list.

As a result of a three-year National Emphasis Program, a memorandum was sent to the Regional Administrators State Designee for inspection guidance conducted for inpatient healthcare settings. Within this memo inspection procedures were outlined for their compliance safety officers to guide them in evaluation of organization's systems to mitigate MSDs relating to patient and resident handling. OSHA compliance officers will be evaluating your organization's systems for hazard identification and analysis, as well as the experience and credential of the person(s) responsible for administering the system.²

Here is where the Association of Safe Patient Handling Professionals (ASPHP) can help! The ASPHP is a significant resource for SPHM implementation and program management. In fact, the ASPHP provided significant SPHM implementation and program management resources to OSHA which they have made available to their appropriate staff. In addition, the ASPHP offers a Certified Safe Patient Handling Professional (CSPHP) credential that signifies the individual's qualification for administering a safe patient handling and mobility program. The CSPHP certification is also among those that can be reported to the [Magnet Recognition Program](#). The ASPHP also offers a Certified Safe Patient Handling Associate (CSPHA) level of certification for the person(s) responsible for providing SPHM training and education on protocols and equipment and involved with support of the SPHM program.

The ASPHP can assist your organization to be in compliance with the inspection guidelines as we are the only organization offering validated credentialing of the CSPHP within the scope of safe patient handling and mobility. Having the CSPHP credential designates the level of SPHM experience of the individual.

For more information on our certification offerings please visit our website at www.asphp.org. We are here to assist your safe patient handling and mobility endeavors.

References:

1. **News Release: U.S. Department of Labor.** OSHA adds key hazards for investigators focus in healthcare inspections. June 25, 2015 <https://www.osha.gov/newsrelease/nat-20150625.html> obtained 07/07/2015
2. **MEMORANDUM For:** Regional Administrators State Designees. June 25, 2015 https://www.osha.gov/dep/enforcement/inpatient_ins_06252015.html obtained 07/07/2015.