

OSHA to Launch National Emphasis Program on Nursing Home and Residential Care Facilities

This initiative will increase the number of inspections, focusing on back injuries associated with patient handling.

The U.S. department of Labor's Bureau of Labor Statistics indicate that occupational injuries and days away from work are 2 ½ times greater in healthcare workers than the general workplace population. There has been a 10% increase in the rate of musculoskeletal injuries with days away from work for nursing aides, orderlies and attendants.

The Assistant Secretary of Labor, David Michaels, released this statement November 9, 2011.

"It is unacceptable that the workers who have dedicated their lives to caring for our loved ones when they are sick are the very same workers who face the highest risk of work-related injury and illness. These injuries can end up destroying a family's emotional and financial security. While workplace injuries, illnesses and fatalities take an enormous toll on this nation's economy – the toll on injured workers and their families is intolerable.

"The rates of injuries and illnesses among hospital and health care workers underscore OSHA's concern about the safety and health of these workers. OSHA is responding by launching, in the next few months, a National Emphasis Program on Nursing Home and Residential Care Facilities. Through this initiative, we will increase our inspections of these facilities, focusing on back injuries from resident handling or lifting patients; exposure to bloodborne pathogens and other infectious diseases; workplace violence; and slips, trips and falls.

"The workers that care for our loved ones deserve a safe workplace and OSHA is diligently working to make this happen."

Industrial Medical Associates has the experience to help tackle these issues. The best programs begin as part of the recruiting and hiring process.

- Post-Hire examinations to establish pre-existing conditions.
- Post-Hire physical abilities testing to determine whether the employee can perform the job functions.
- Back training/Ergonomic Evaluation/Jobsite Analysis
- Substance Abuse testing.

. **When and if an injury does occurs:** Industrial Medical Associates takes the team approach to establish integration of the employee, safety personnel, management, medical partners and insurance carriers. With this approach, Industrial Medical Associates can achieve the safe return to duty for your employee, in a timely manner.

Proven Success

Extended Health Care Provider One Year Period

- Reduction in Reported Accidents from 793 down to 600
- Reduction in OSHA Reportable from 81 down to 53
- Reduction in Lost Work Days from 350 per month down to 65 per month

For more information, contact Tim Christman 315-478-1977 ext 247, or visit our website at www.industrialmedical.com.