

# OSHA Inspection Guidance for Inpatient Healthcare Settings

The Occupational Safety & Health Administration ("OSHA") recently published a memorandum addressed to its Regional Administrators entitled "Inspection Guidance for Inpatient Healthcare Settings". The Inspection Guidance identifies hazards that will be the focus of OSHA inspections of healthcare facilities, regardless of the original reason for the inspection, as follows:



## MUSCULOSKELETAL DISORDERS (MSDs)

- Determine the extent of patient handling hazards.
- Assess the incidence and severity rates.
- Establish the circumstances regarding the use of devices versus manual lifting, transferring, and repositioning.
- Ensure that the appropriate quantity and types of assistive devices are available, including extra devices.
- Ensure that employees have been trained regarding hazards associated with lifting, transferring, or repositioning, and the proper techniques to avoid injuries.

## WORKPLACE VIOLENCE



- Analyze and identify potential and existing hazards.
- Review workplace violence prevention programs to ensure employees understand their obligations.
- Provide safety and health training for employees to recognize signs of violence, defuse a situation, and defend against violence.



## EXPOSURE TO HAZARDOUS CHEMICALS

- Implement a written program to provide worker training, warning labels and access to Material Safety Data Sheets.



## EXPOSURE TO MULTI-DRUG RESISTANT ORGANISMS (MDRO)

- Investigate if multi-drug resistant organisms are exposed.
- Use of precautions to reduce or eliminate exposure.



## SLIPS, TRIPS, AND FALLS

- Review policies regarding the cleanup of spills.
- Check for slippery floors, surfaces, or unguarded openings.
- Ensure employees wear appropriate footwear.

## TUBERCULOSIS (TB)



- Determine whether a suspected / tuberculosis case has occurred within the prior six months.
- Establish procedures to promptly manage the care of suspected or infected patients / residents.

## BLOODBORNE PATHOGENS



- Review Exposure Control Plan (ECP).
- Implement bloodborne pathogen training program.
- Ensure personal protection equipment is exposure free.
- Review post-exposure treatment plan.

Hospitals, nursing homes, and residential care facilities should carefully review their policies and practices in light of the above hazards, so that they are better prepared for likely increased inspections by OSHA.

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