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joint dislocations, fractures, pain

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Safe Patient Handling- The NIOSH Lifting Equation

Application of the NIOSH Lifting Equation

The NIOSH lifting equation which is an ergonomic formula for assessing limits under a set of conditions was **not** intended to be applied to the lifting of humans. Despite this disclaimer Dr. Waters and others have used the equation to develop a <u>Maximum</u> Recommended Weight Limit (RWL) for the manual lifting of patients. The RWL is 35 lbs. when the task is performed under ideal circumstances (e.g. patient is not combative; lift is smooth and slow; lifting close to the body/between shoulder and knees/using neutral body postures; and "geometry" of the lift not subject to change). Given the fact that these conditions rarely exist, Dr. Waters and others have concluded that many patient handling lifting tasks are unacceptable.

Note: The lifting equation does not apply to pushing and pulling tasks.





Safe Patient Handling- OSHA Program Elements

MSD Assessment

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- Management Support
- Policy/Program Development
- Facility & Patient Needs Assessment
- Facilitating Change
- Safe Patient Handling Equipment
- Education & Training
- Program Evaluation

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Safe Patient Handling- Guidelines

- ANA Position (2008)- In order to establish a safe environment of care for nurses and patients, the American Nurses Association (ANA) supports actions and policies that result in the elimination of manual patient handling.
- AOHP Position Statement on Patient Handling (2004)- AOHP believes that manual patient handling is unsafe for the caregiver and patient. Such handling is also directly responsible for disabling back injuries and musculoskeletal disorders in nurses and other direct care providers.
- NIOSH Position- Even under ideal conditions, the weight of any adult far exceeds the lifting capacity of most caregivers, 90% of whom are female.



Safe Patient Movement and Mobility-"The Trinity Health Journey" Laying the Foundation

- · Establishing a patient movement equipment culture
- Unified coding and implementation of a system wide electronic incident reporting system (UAIR) [THEIR-Trinity Health Employee Incident Reporting] and uniform and defined coding (2010)
- Patient Movement Definition (2008)
- Established two Mandatory Safety Standards (2008):
 - No manual lifting of patients/residents/clients from the floor
- No manual patient/resident/client movement requiring a force greater than 35 lbs.



Safe Patient Movement and Mobility

Laying the Foundation (Continued)

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- Selection of preferred vendors through Supply Chain Management for movement equipment focusing primarily on powered patient movement equipment [ceiling lifts and mobile lifts]
- Provided and managed several projects through an internal grant program (TAL aka Venzke Grants)
 - Sent approximately 60 Employee Health Nurses, Nurse Managers and CNOs to the Annual Safe Patient Movement Conference.
 - Purchased, distributed and provided training for push/pull meters.
 - Ministry Projects- Early reporting and management of MSDs; implementation of a patient movement SIM lab and piloting of various lifting and movement equipment.

Safe Patient Movement and Mobility
Laying the Foundation (Continued)

- Premium Discount Program (20% Premium Surcharge): Accountability Model based on program elements and outcomes.
 - Safe Patient Movement process- Documentation of program, procedures, algorithms, forms
 - Loss Control plans based on loss trending and analysis and accident investigation findings
 - Post-Incident Investigation- Monitoring of turn-around time and quality of investigation and corrective measures
 - Powered Equipment Inventory
 - Monitoring/trending of lift equipment usage leading to the underlying causes of non-use and improvement strategies.

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Safe Patient Movement- Pushing/Pulling Forces

- Problem: "Our nurses do not understand what 35 lb. of pushing and pulling force is so how do they know when to ask for help or use movement assist equipment."
- Opportunity:
 - Measure qualitative/quantitative forces for the most common patient movement pushing and pulling tasks. How many of these exceed the 35 lb. force requirement?
 - Every nurse needs to know what 35 lbs. of pushing and pulling force feels like (e.g. new employee orientation, "Safety Fairs", post-accident investigation).

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Snook and Liberty Mutual Psychophysical Limits Force (Initial) Push Pull 55 55 50.6 48.4 44 41.8 41.8 39.6 41.8 39.6 37.4 35.2 Force (Push 37.4 28.6 24.2 19.8 17.6 13.2 Coupling at shoulder level mm (in) Male 1440 (56.7) Female 1350 (53.2) Pull 35.2 30.8 26.4 22 19.8 15.4 Push 59.4 52.8 46.2 46.2 46.2 46.2 Push 46.2 35.2 28.6 26.4 24.2 19.8 Pull 44 57.2 52.8 44 44 44 37.4 7 25 50 100 150 200 44 39.6 33 30.8 26.4 22 Push 59.4 55 46.2 46.2 46.2 46.2 41.8 Coupling at elbow level mm (in) Male 950 (37.4) Female 890 (35.0) Pull 35.2 30.8 26.4 22 19.8 15.4 Push Pull Push 35.2 Pull 59.4 55 46.2 46.2 46.2 Pull 41.8 37.4 30.8 28.6 26.4 19.8 41.8 37.4 30.8 28.6 26.4 35.2 28.6 24.2 22 19.8 25 50 100 50.6 44 41.8 41.8 37.4 57.2 50.6 44 41.8 41.8 Force (Initial) Force (Sustained) Push Pull Push Pull Push Pull Push Pull Coupling at knee level mm (in) Male 640 (25.2) Female 570 (22.4) 44 44 37.4 35.2 35.2 46.2 46.2 39.6 39.6 39.6 61.6 57.2 48.4 48.4 39.6 35.2 28.6 26.4 24.2 50.4 30.8 30.2 37.4 33 30.8 26.4 22 19.8 17.6 30.8 28.6 24.2 19.8 17.6 52.8 46.2 44 44 25 50 100 28.6 26.4 150 48.4 24.2 35.2 39.6 13.2 13.2 35.2 19.8 Push/pull forces have been developed based upon the strength design goals acceptable to at least 75% of the exposed population. Thinky Health

Pushing and Pulling- Ergonomic Considerations

- Coupling: Quality, width and coupling height above floor
- Repetition (e.g. 1 push/pull every 30 minutes)
- Distance: Feet traveled
- Distance from body (reaching)
- Type of Force (initial, sustained)
- Individual Capacity
 - Anthropometric Factors (height, size, limb length)
 - Muscle Strength
 - Tissue Strength
- Is there a vertical component?

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- Q: Who will collect the measurements and what equipment will be used?
- A: One person at each facility will be identified to take the measurement. The equipment used must be portable, durable, and easy to use and interpret. Grant money was used to pay for the equipment and training.

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Push/Pull Meter and Accessories

- Mechanical Force Gauge (Accuracy of <u>+</u>0.3%)
- Several adapters came with the meter
- Added a mounted handle, strap and clip
- Added a carrying case

Note: Training developed by both Trinity Health and Humantech was provided to each associate assigned to take measurements.

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Data Summary and Analysis

- Hundreds of measurements were recorded. Approximately 31% were above the 35 lb. force requirement.
- Many of the tasks exceeding the 35 lbs. could be modified to achieve the force requirement (e.g. addition of a second HCP, reduction in friction through the use of a slide sheet or sliding board, using gravity by using equipment features, or using slower, smoother coordination of the task).
- For carts and beds, rolling on carpeting added up to 3-5 lbs. of additional force.
- Given the established psychophysical limits, measurements taken and what we know about caregiver pushing/pulling tasks, 35 lbs. still seems to be a good requirement for a single caregiver (two handed operation).

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What do we know & what have we learned?

- Manual patient handling can easily exceed the muscle strength and tissue tolerance limits for caregivers.
- Safe patient handling and movement using technology (ceiling lifts) is effective in preventing musculoskeletal disorders (MSDs).
- There is no safe way to manually lift a fully dependent patient, even with two caregivers.
- Reliance on body mechanics alone is not safe and does not prevent MSDs [However, neutral body posture needs to be practiced even if lift equipment is being used.]
- Care must be taken to avoid transferring risk from compression loading to shear loading.
- There is not one "Best Practice." There are many "Best Practices."

Opportunities for Future Research & Consideration

- The Cultural Framework (HRO, Just Culture, Change Management)
- Leadership: Commitment and Accountability
- Compatibility of equipment in the planning process
- SPM Competency Training for Physical Therapist and Nurses required to manage SPM programs
- The role of ergonomists and human factors in the design of facilities and equipment
- · Engagement and motivation of nursing staff
- Integrative and collaborative approach toward every element of SPHM program
- Standardization of sling design
- Durable vs. single-use slings/devices

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