

Put the Health into Healthcare

What is Healthcare?

Healthcare is involved, directly or indirectly, with the provision of health services to individuals. These services can occur in a variety of work settings, including hospitals, clinics, dental offices, out-patient surgery centers, birthing centers, emergency medical care, home healthcare, and nursing homes.

What Types of Safety & Health Hazards do Workers Face?

- Bloodborne pathogens and biological hazards
- Potential chemical and drug exposures
- Respiratory, laser, and laboratory hazards
- Ergonomic hazards (lifting or repetitive tasks)
- Radioactive material and x-ray hazards
- Workplace violence (WPV)
- Materials that cause allergic reactions

Ways to Create a Safe Work Culture:

1. The actions management take to improve both patient and worker safety.
2. Worker participation in safety planning.
3. The availability of appropriate protective equipment.
4. The influence of group norms regarding acceptable safety practices.
5. The organization's socialization for new personnel.

Stay Informed of Workers Rights: [OSHA.GOV/WORKERS](https://www.osha.gov/workers)



What Other Workers, Besides Doctors and Nurses, are Exposed?

- Mechanical Maintenance -
- Medical Equipment Maintenance -
- Housekeeping -
- Food Service -
- Building Maintenance -
- Groundskeeping -
- Laundry -



One Major Source of Injury to Healthcare Workers: (MSDs) Musculoskeletal Disorders

Most of these injuries are sustained due to overexertion and repeated manual patient handling activities, often involving heavy manual lifting associated with transferring, and repositioning patients and working in extremely awkward postures.

Sprains and strains are the most reported nature of injuries, while the shoulders and lower back are the most affected areas.



Get More Information: [OSHA.GOV/HEALTHCARE](https://www.osha.gov/healthcare)

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For more information, please contact HIOSH at:
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