



# Safe Patient Handling and Movement Aids

**H**EALTH CARE WORKERS employed by NYC Health+Hospitals face many hazards on the job. According to the U.S. Department of Labor, health care workers and social assistance workers experience the highest rate of non-fatal occupational injuries and illnesses of any industry sector, including retail and manufacturing<sup>1</sup>. Everyday caregivers suffer devastating and often career-ending musculoskeletal disorders (MSDs). More than illnesses, MSDs are responsible for lost work time, the need for long-term medical care, and sometimes permanent disability.

**R**EPEATED AND FORCEFUL movements associated with patient care activities lead to serious health problems. Among the tasks that lead to injury are patient lifting, transferring, and repositioning.

In addition, the forward bending, twisting, and reaching when feeding, bathing, and dressing patients are also associated with an increased risk of musculoskeletal injury.

The passage of the SPH law requires employers to provide equipment and policies to address the frequency of musculoskeletal injuries experience by employees in NYC Health+Hospitals. Check your facility program for more specific information.

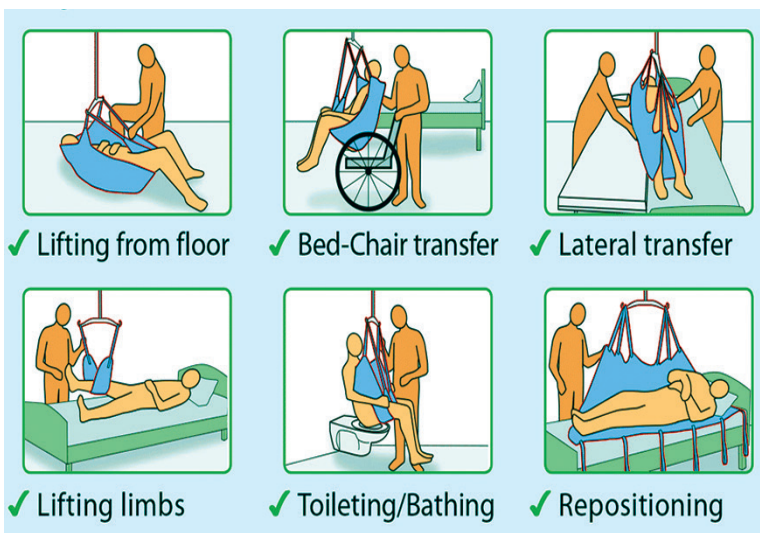


## Assistance with vertical transfers:

- Powered full body sling lifts
- Floor-based lifts
- Ceiling mounted patient lifts
- Powered standing lifts
- Non-powered standing aids
- Gait/transfer belts

## Assistance with lateral transfer and repositioning:

- Air assisted systems
- Friction-reducing devices
- Mechanical transfer aids
- Sliding boards
- Transfer chair



<sup>1</sup>Bureau of Labor Statistics, 2015 U.S. Department of Labor, [www.bls.gov](http://www.bls.gov)

This fact sheet was produced through a grant from the New York State Department of Labor Hazard Abatement Board (C16004GG), 2017

Connect with DC 37 on:



Facebook.com/  
District Council 37



@DistCouncil37



Instagram.com/  
dc37afscme

