

# AOHP 2006 National Conference Poster Presentations Overview

## **Injury Reduction and Implementation of a Safe Patient Handling Program**

*Sandra Barnosky, APRN, COHN-S, Employee Health Service, Occupational & Environmental Health Center, Department of Medicine, UCHC and School of Medicine, Farmington, CT; Patti Wawzyniecki, MS, Industrial Hygienist/Ergonomist, Office of Research and Safety, UCHC, Farmington, CT; Renee Fekieta, MS, UConn, Storrs Campus, PhD Student and Marcia Trape`-Cardoso, MD, FACP, Employee Health Service, Occupational & Environmental Health Center, Department of Medicine, UCHC and School of Medicine, Farmington, CT*

At the University of Connecticut Health Center (UCHC) workers' compensation costs had skyrocketed over the past 2-3 years. After a review of the data, many injuries were related to patient handling activities. A team of staff from UConn Health Center traveled to review other programs in place at other hospitals. They then evaluated each area of the health center and determined what lifting devices to use. They had training and education sessions for all staff. They have greatly reduced their injury rate and costs by spending money on prevention and educating their staff.

## **The "One Stop" Preplacement Evaluation**

*Sharon Bundy, RN, COHN-S  
Mayo Clinic, Rochester, MN*

The Employee Occupational Health Service is responsible for completing preplacement evaluations for all individuals working at the Mayo Clinic. During the months of May and June in addition to the regular hires, approximately 600 students and residents are hired. This poster emphasizes the nursing strategies implemented in 2005 to improve the process which resulted in the satisfaction of all customers.

## **Smooth Moves-You watch my back...I'll watch yours!**

*Sharon Craig, APRN-BC, COHN-S  
Vanderbilt University Medical Center, Nashville, TN*

Vanderbilt University Medical Center successfully implemented a safe patient handling – minimal lift program and seeks to share our methods and outcomes as a model for success.

## **“Creating An Oncology Focused Employee Health Surveillance Program: An example of Interdepartmental Cooperation”**

*Stephanie Dillman, RN, BSN  
St. Luke's Hospital and Health Network,*

In response to the recent concerns and regulation changes related to antineoplastic drug handling, the Employee Health and Oncology departments developed a policy, screening questionnaire and oncology specific physical based on current guidelines for the staff handling the drugs of concern.

## **HIV Testing-Why Do A Rapid**

*Jo Grayson, RN  
Christian Hospital NE/NW/Village North, Inc., St Louis, MO*

The institution of rapid HIV testing for BJC HealthCare in St. Louis, Missouri has proven an invaluable tool over the past few years. Not only has it demonstrated a cost savings, but it has provided employees with body substance exposures, a rapid means of finding out potential exposure results.

### **Underreporting of Sharps Injuries**

*MaryAnn Gruden, CRNP, MSN, NP-C, COHN-S/CM*

*The Western Pennsylvania Hospital*

*Part of the West Penn Allegheny Health System, Pittsburgh, PA*

Blood and body fluid exposures with contaminated sharps (examples: needles, surgical instruments) are a major safety concern in healthcare. Under reporting of these injuries especially among younger nurses are an even bigger concern. The primary purpose of this research study was to gather information related to the reporting of contaminated sharps injuries at West Penn Hospital and determine the rate of under reporting. A secondary purpose was to analyze underreporting of sharps injuries with regard to age and rationale for not reporting the event. Lastly, methods to increase the rate of reporting were analyzed.

### **The Journey to Excellence: Occupational Health's Role in Gaining magnet Designation**

*MaryAnn Gruden, CRNP, MSN, NP-C, COHN-S/CM*

*The Western Pennsylvania Hospital*

*Part of the West Penn Allegheny Health System, Pittsburgh, PA*

The purpose of this poster presentation is twofold. First, it will describe the various components of the American Nurses Credentialing Center's "Magnet Designation" Program including the history of its development. Secondly, it will describe the nature of the occupational health nurse's (OHN) contributions toward facility recognition as a "Magnet" facility. This description will include a conceptual model created to illustrate contributions of the OHN roles to healthcare worker safety, patient safety and the magnet forces. Several key forces to which the OHN contributes will be highlighted.

### **Mumps Outbreak in the Upper Plains States**

*Linda Linge, RN, COHN-S*

*Avera McKennan Hospital*

*Sioux Falls, SD*

The Mumps outbreak of the upper plains states caused some panic among health care workers and volunteers. This poster shows how we went about ensuring all employees were immune to mumps as well as how we communicated to them.

### **Safe Passage: Preventing Patient Lift/Transfer Injuries**

*Beverly Nuchols, RN-C, OHNP, PhD, COHN-S*

*El Camino Hospital, Mountain View, CA*

This poster is about the implementation of the Patient Lift/Transfer Injury Prevention Performance Improvement project at El Camino Hospital. This includes implementation of the training and use of lift equipment hospital-wide, in depth assessment of causes of injuries in targeted units, staff lift team page, interdepartmental coordination of patient lifts, lift equipment algorithm, and proposal for in-ceiling lifts.

### **TB Tool for Occupational Health Nurses**

*Beverly Nuchols, RN-C, OHNP, PhD, COHN-S*

*El Camino Hospital, Mountain View, CA*

This poster is about a project the presenter co-authored as part of the Industry Outreach group of the TB Prevention Partnership (TPP) of Santa Clara County Public Health Department. The poster reviews the major components of an Occupational Health Nurses' Tuberculosis Information Packet developed by the presenter and distributed to OHNs in Santa Clara County. The purpose of the packet is to promote the use of a newly developed TB Risk Assessment Questionnaire for OHNs to use to identify high risk employees. The packet further educates OHNs about the TB incidence, screening, diagnosis, treatment, worksite exposure and policy guidelines.

**The "New" needle in Employee Health: Auricular Acupuncture for Smoking Cessation and General Well Being**

*Janice Van Heest, RN, BSN*

*Chelsea Community Hospital, Chelsea, MI*

Auricular acupuncture involves the insertion of fine needles in to specific "energy" points on the ear. This therapy has been recognized by the World Health Organization to help in the management of detoxification symptoms, treatment of anxiety, pain, insomnia, and to obtain a sense of well-being. At Chelsea Community Hospital auricular acupuncture is offered, free of charge, as an adjunct to counseling and nicotine replacements for smoking cessation, as well as for general well-being as part of our campus wide employee wellness program.

**Sharps Safety Awareness for Health Care Workers**

*Carol Gavwiner, Nancy Gemeinhart, Cathleen Carroll, Eleanor Marietta, Caryl Ulmer & Jennifer Reneau  
BJC HealthCare, St. Louis, MO*

A team developed a Power Point teaching tool to reduce the incidence of healthcare worker needlestick injuries. The program can be used for annual skills days, or through individual intranet access. The program presents both pictural and verbal instruction.