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AOHP Releases Updated Safe Patient Handling Resource Guide

PITTSBURGH, PA — The Association of Occupational Health Professionals in Healthcare (AOHP) recently published the third edition of *Beyond Getting Started: A Resource Guide for Implementing a Safe Patient Handling Program in the Acute Care Setting* to promote the health and safety of healthcare personnel and patients across the nation.

AOHP strongly supports the provision of a safe and healthy environment for the nurse/caregiver and patient. Back injuries and musculoskeletal disorders related to patient handling are the leading cause of workplace disability for nurses and other direct patient care providers. The importance of developing reliable approaches for prevention of back injuries and other musculoskeletal disorders related to patient handling is critical. AOHP supports actions, policies and laws that will help to establish a safer environment for care for nurses, other direct patient care providers and patients as it relates to safer patient handling and prevention of injuries.

AOHP has been advocating for safer patient handling practices for many years. The association collaborated with the Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) to provide testimony before Congress in 2000, and first issued a position statement on safe patient handling in July 2004. *Beyond Getting Started: A Resource Guide for Implementing a Safe Patient Handling Program in the Acute Care Setting* was developed in the summer of 2006 and last updated in 2011. The updated 2014 resource guide includes information on:

- The history of the safe patient handling movement in the United States.
- The importance of safe patient handling in acute and long-term care settings.
- How to successfully develop, implement and evaluate an effective safe patient handling program.
- AOHP's current position statement on safe patient handling.
- Samples of forms, policies and worksheets that should be developed.
- References to additional helpful information.

AOHP is a national association representing thousands of healthcare personnel whose vision is to be the defining resource and leading advocate for occupational health, safety and well-being in healthcare. AOHP promotes health and safety for healthcare personnel through: advocacy; occupational health education and networking opportunities; health and safety advancement through best practice and research; and partnering with other invested stakeholders.

For more information, please call AOHP Headquarters at 800-362-4347, or e-mail info@aohp.org. The complete AOHP *Beyond Getting Started: A Resource Guide for Implementing a Safe Patient Handling*

Program in the Acute Care Setting document can be viewed online at
http://aohp.org/aohp/Portals/0/Documents/ToolsForYourWork/free_publications/Beyond%20Getting%20Started%20Safe%20Patient%20Handling%20-%20May%202014.pdf.

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