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# Employee Slips, Trips and Falls

What you need to know about OSHA, JCAHO and CMS regulations and standards... and how to analyze the real cost of those injuries.

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## OSHA

Each employer shall furnish to each of his employees a place of employment which are free from recognized hazards that are causing, or are likely to cause, death or serious physical harm to his employees. **1**

## JCAHO

**Standard EC.1.10** The hospital\* manages safety risks. *Elements of Performance:* The hospital conducts proactive risk assessments that evaluate the potential adverse impact of buildings, grounds, equipment, occupants, and internal physical systems on the safety and health of patients, staff and other people coming to the hospital's facilities. ... and the hospital uses the risks identified to select and implement procedures and controls to achieve the lowest potential for adverse impact on the safety and health of patients, staff and other people coming to the hospital's facilities. **2**

**Standard EC.9.10** The hospital monitors conditions in the environment. *Elements of Performance:* The hospital monitors conditions in the environment including injuries to patients or others coming to the hospital's facilities as well as incidents of property damage and occupational illnesses and injuries. **3**

## CMS

**Medicare Conditions of Participation (CoPs)** Compliance with Federal, State and local laws. (a) The hospital must be in compliance with applicable Federal laws related to the health and safety of patients. The hospital must be approved as meeting standards for licensing established by the agency of the State or locality responsible for licensing hospitals. CFR 482 **4**

\*The term Hospital also refers to all types of medical facilities.

# Facts You Should Know

## 2

Falls (fatal and nonfatal) are a serious safety concern in the workplace, taking 715 lives and inflicting 313,335 injuries involving a work absence in one year. **6**

The most common kinds of accidents at work are slip and trip injuries. **7**

Employers pay more than \$15-\$20 billion in workers' compensation costs for musculoskeletal disorders (MSDs) every year. **8**

Same level falls, like slips and trips, account for 65% of all fall-related injuries. **9**

The average claim costs are \$11,771. When you factor in all other costs such as staff replacement, lost productivity and equipment damages, the estimated actual cost to a company can be as much as four times the claim costs –approximately \$59,000 per injury. **10**

Slip and trip injuries represent the most common type of major employee injury, rising from 33% in 2000/2001 to 37% in 2001/2002. **12**

A total of 626,000 lost workdays due to MSDs are reported to the Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS), accounting for \$1 of every \$3 spent for workers' compensation in that year. **13**

Over-exertion, repetitive stress injuries and falls while on the job cost more than \$6 billion in lost wages, health care expenses, legal costs and workers' compensation claims. **14**

Occupational hazards in the workplace have been identified as a major contributor to nurses leaving the profession, contributing to the growing nursing shortage. **5**

# Benefits of Preventing Slip and Trip Injuries



- Reduce back injuries up to 95%. **15**
- Reduce Workers' Compensation claims.
- Reduce lost workdays.
- Improve employee safety and satisfaction.

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## Footnotes

**1** Section 5A(1) of the OSHA act known as the General Duty Clause. **2; 3** Joint Commission on Accreditation of Healthcare Organizations (JCAHO) 2004 Standards.

**4** Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) – Conditions of Participation for Hospitals CFR 482. **5** AORN Position Statement on Workplace Safety, "Working

conditions are major factor in retaining current nurse work-force," *Legislative Network for Nurses* 18 (Sept.10, 2001). **6; 8; 13** Bureau of Labor Statistics DEPARTMENT OF

LABOR Occupational Safety and Health Administration 29 CFR Part 1910. **7** GMB General Union, Britain's General Union Labor Statistics. **9; 10; 11** Workplace Safety

and Insurance Board. **12** Institute of Quality Assurance. **14** The American Academy of Orthopedic Surgeons (AAOS). **15** Premier, Inc., Back Injury Prevention; Preventing

Back Injuries in Patient Care; (Highlights aspects of successful ergonomics programs from reporting hospitals).

# Cost Analysis of Expenses Resulting From Slips, Trips and Falls

Period Covered  to

Department Covered  O.R.  Other  Facility-wide

Source of Information

# of Claims Reviewed

Costs	Total Cost
1 Treatment	\$
2 Diagnostic Testing Required	\$
3 Staff Time Off Due to Injury	\$
4 Cost of Replacement Staff	\$
5 Workers' Compensation Claim	\$
6 Cost of Investigating and Reporting	\$
7 Increase to Facility's Insurance Premium	\$
8 Increase in Liability Reserves	\$
9 Attorney's Fees	\$
10 Cost of Settlement	\$
11 Other:	\$
12 <input type="text"/>	\$
13 <input type="text"/>	\$
<b>Total Cost For The Period</b>	\$

Cost of SMI product(s) to reduce/solve problem (\$2.00-\$4.00 per work station) \$

Potential cost savings per year \$

Nurse inspired innovative product(s) to solve this issue are available from Sandel Medical Industries, LLC.

**Trip-No-More™** is a cord alert device that will eliminate the chance of injuries and falls.  
**DriFloor™** is an absorbent floor pad that safely replaces the use of towels & blankets on the floor

Prepared by

Title  Date

**Make safety a line item in your budget.**

## Associated Websites

**[www.jcaho.org](http://www.jcaho.org)**

Joint Commission on Accreditation of Healthcare Organizations

**[www.osha.gov](http://www.osha.gov)**

Occupational Safety and Health Administration

**[www.cms.hhs.gov/regulations](http://www.cms.hhs.gov/regulations)**

Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (regulations)

**[www.aorn.org](http://www.aorn.org)**

Association of Perioperative Registered Nurses

**[www.bls.gov](http://www.bls.gov)**

Department of Labor, Bureau of Labor Statistics

**[www.iqa.gov](http://www.iqa.gov)**

Institute of Quality Insurance

**[www.premiersafetyinstitute.org](http://www.premiersafetyinstitute.org)**

Premier Purchasing Partners Safety Website

## Partial List of Facilities Using Our Products

**Anaheim Memorial Medical Center** Anaheim, CA

**Charlotte Mecklenberg Hospital & Medical Center** Charlotte, NC

**Bethesda North Hospital** Cincinnati, OH

**St. Mary's Medical Center** Longhorne, PA



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