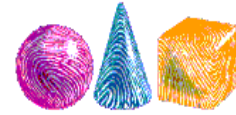




# ETC



ERGONOMIC TECHNOLOGIES CORPORATION  
- Ergonomic Results within Reach

## Health Care Profiting Through Ergonomics

### Overview

The U.S. Department of Labor, Bureau of Labor Statistics 1994 Occupational Injuries and Illnesses lists, "nursing and personal care facilities" as having an annual accident incident rate of 18.6 per 100 full time employees (FTE), lost/restricted work days was 212.5 per 100 FTE, and nursing home workers had the 3rd highest rate of occupational injury/illness among all US industries with 100,000. Worker accident statistics were not as severe for hospitals.... although they still exceeded the average for all industries, 12.0 recordable accidents per 100 FTE workers, 89.4 restricted and lost work days per FTE.



Many studies have shown nurses have the highest prevalence for low back pain, with rates varying from 38%-67%. The rates vary among all nursing categories, with Certified Nursing Assistants in nursing homes and long term care facilities having the greatest risk for back injuries, and younger nurses and more recent graduates also having a greater risk of back injury.



### Risk Factors

The risk factors include manual handling as follows:

- Transferring patients
  - Frequent manual transfers
- Patient handling tasks
  - 84% of nurses perceived patient handling as a leading factor in back pain
- Disposal of dirty sheets, laundry

Nurses try to use good mechanics to reduce risk factors however:

- Cannot use good body postures because:
  - Room space limited
  - Non adjustable equipment (beds, chairs, commodes)
  - Interference with other equipment or furniture in patient's room

Risk factors in research and clinical laboratories include the following:

- Repetitive work involving smaller body joints (elbows, wrists)
- Poorly designed work benches and chairs inducing poor postures (back and neck) and excessive reach requirements
- Poor tools such as pipettes



### Benefits of Ergonomics

- Optimizing the work systems effectiveness to gain productivity
- Assuring the workers health, safety and well being
- Continually improve the knowledge base used to design tools and equipment for the healthcare industry
- Providing appropriate instruction and training on proper patient handling training, work methods, breaks and use of equipment
- Providing appropriate tools and equipment such as patient transfer assists and lifts, appropriate tools, work benches and chairs for laboratories

### Customer Reference List

- AHCA (American Healthcare Association)
- Beth Israel Medical Center
- Beverly Enterprises
- Merck
- OCCU Health (Occupational, Environmental & Preventative Medical Consultants)
- OCOSH (Ohio Center For Occupational Safety & Health)
- OIOC (Occupational & Industrial Orthopedic Center)
- SOMA (Sandler Occupational Medicine Associates, Inc)
- USACHPPM (U.S. Army Center For Health Promotion & Preventative Medicine)
- USAF Armstrong Laboratory
- Vermont Rehabilitation Engineering Research Center
- Westchester County Medical Center



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