



*The Association of Safe Patient Handling Professionals, Inc. (ASPHP) is a member-driven, non-profit organization whose mission is: "To improve the safety of caregivers and their patients by advancing the science and practice of safe patient handling". Led by a Board consisting of leaders in the field of patient care ergonomics (safe patient handling), the ASPHP aspires to build a recognized and credentialed profession through providing education and sharing of current information and best practices.*

**Association of Safe Patient Handling Professionals, Inc.  
Position Statement  
Restoring MSD Column to OSHA 300 Log**

The Board of the Association of Safe Patient Handling Professionals (ASPHP) supports the restoration of the musculoskeletal disorder (MSD) column on the OSHA 300 log and supports efforts by the Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) to include this column on future OSHA 300 logs. We are fully in support of the position statement (attached) presented by the American Industrial Hygiene Association (AIHA) and concur with their justifications for restoring the column.

Healthcare, the employment sector we represent and service, is particularly affected by the occurrence of these disorders as the majority of patient handling injuries are musculoskeletal ones. In 2007, Registered Nurses (RNs) were 7<sup>th</sup> among all occupations for number of reported cases, with 8,580 'days away' work-related musculoskeletal disorders (WMSD) cases. Other healthcare sectors (licensed practical nurses, physical therapists, radiology technicians, etc.) were ranked 2<sup>nd</sup>, with 24,340 WMSD cases. WMSD typically are the highest cost and one of the highest frequency workers' compensation loss producing sources in healthcare facilities. Additionally, workplace conditions that cause patient handling related WMSD cases often lead to reduced quality of care, including injury to patients. These are also preventable losses.

With no mechanism to officially track such injuries, these injuries are 'lost'. With inclusion of a WMSD column, organizations will have visible data to direct necessary control measures, and OSHA will be provided data to direct resources and attention, if necessary. Effective safe patient handling (SPH) programs with access to such injury data will support institution of ergonomic interventions to reduce risk of injury and organizational losses, and improve the quality of patient care. We strongly support restoration of the MSD column to the OSHA 300 log.

**Reference:**

BLS, "Lost-Worktime Injuries and Illnesses: Characteristics and Resulting Time Away From Work, 2007."

Approved:

Board of Directors  
Association of Safe Patient Handling Professionals, Inc.  
June 10, 2011