

SAFE PATIENT HANDLING COMMITTEE – SWEDISH MEDICAL CENTER

The Safe Patient Handling Committee is a subcommittee of the Incident and Accident Committee for Swedish Medical Center. It must consist of at least 50% non-managerial front line direct patient care representatives and will preferably have representation from all Campuses (Ballard, Providence, First Hill and Issaquah).

The purpose of the committee is to assist Swedish Medical Center to carry out the provisions of the Safe Patient Handling Bill (ESHB 1672 effective 6-7-2006) and to provide a safe environment for both our patients and employees.

General Responsibilities:

The representative will commit to meeting one hour per month on _____ at _____ (time). They must have an active interest in promoting patient and employee safety and improving ergonomics throughout their working environment. The representative will have the ability to: 1) communicate pertinent information from committee meetings back to other hospital employees 2) analyze injury patterns throughout the hospital and collaborate in solutions 3) Model safe patient handling policies and procedures in their own work environment and train co-workers to do the same 4) Serve on special projects and training as needed and schedule permits.

Goals:

- 1) To assist in design, development and implementation of a safe patient handling program for all campuses / all shifts of SMC. This program must be in place by 12-1-07.
- 2) Develop a policy on Safe Patient Handling based on the patient's physical and medical condition and availability of lifting equipment or lift team options.
- 3) To help develop a patient handling hazard assessment specific for variables which may include: specific work tasks, types of nursing units, patient populations and physical work environment.
- 4) Review plans for construction and remodeling and ensure safe patient handling measures as well as ergonomics standards are addressed and implemented.

- 5) Review and make recommendations on all safe patient handling equipment.
- 6) Educate departments on guidelines of ESHB 1672 and recommendations for injury prevention made by the committee.
- 7) Educate departments on guidelines and alternatives to manual lifting situations which would expose an employee to unacceptable risk of injury.
- 8) Assist in design and implementation of an annual performance evaluation of the Safe Patient Handling Program at SMC which would determine its effectiveness and compliance with the requirements of ESHB 1672.