

Dragon, Karen E. (CDC/NIOSH/EIDIV)

From: Smith, Dwayne [Dwayne.Smith@ecommunity.com]
Sent: Tuesday, October 03, 2006 10:57 AM
To: NIOSH Docket Office (CDC)
Subject: Public Comments for Docket #072 from Web site: Patient Handling
Follow Up Flag: Follow up
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To whom it may concern,

Community Hospital of Anderson, Indiana realizes it has a responsibility to provide health care in a safe environment for our workers. Towards this end we have made significant gains, reducing our number of total injuries by 35% in the last 4 years. However, we have noted most of our reduction occurring in departments that are not involved in direct patient care. To address this we are investigating low-lift programs for patient transfers and mobility. Unfortunately equipment costs are very expensive. We have had several companies perform assessments of our facility and have also looked at self managing the program, utilizing equipment from several vendors. While equipment is only a part of the puzzle, it is the most costly. And as you are probably aware of these are not prosperous times for hospitals, especially community based ones with a large Medicare/Medicaid patient base. I have recently seen where the state of New York is offering grants to help underwrite the costs of equipment for such programs. Are there any such grants available on the national level?

Thank you for your time.

Sincerely,

Dwayne Smith, PT
Worker's Compensation Operations Manager
Community Hospital Anderson

Dragon, Karen E. (CDC/NIOSH/EIDIV)

From: Waters, Thomas R. (CDC/NIOSH/DIART)
Sent: Tuesday, October 10, 2006 1:31 PM
To: 'Smith, Dwayne'
Cc: NIOSH Docket Office (CDC)
Subject: RE: Public Comments for Docket #072 from Web site: Patient Handling

Mr. Smith,
Thanks for your comments.

As far as I know, there are no grants such as those you have referred to below. Two states have programs similar to those. These include: Washington State (they gave a reduction in Workers Comp for purchase of equipment) and Ohio State Bureau of Workers Comp gave grants to buy equipment. Maine Insurance (MEMIC) also had a program. These are all state run workers comp programs. I had hoped the insurance industry would see these examples and duplicate them. You might want to talk to your insurance carrier to see if they have a program like this.

Tom Waters

Thomas R. Waters, Ph.D.
NIOSH (MS-C24)
4676 Columbia Parkway
Cincinnati, OH 45226
Ph.: 513-533-8147
Fax : 513-533-8596

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