



Common Control Strategies

Medical Industry Accident Trends and Controls

The most prevalent exposures for **Texas Medical Group Operations** are falls, strains, cut/punctures, miscellaneous and struck-by.

<u>Cause of Loss</u>	<u>% of Claims</u>	<u>% of Incurred</u>	<u>Average \$ Per Claim</u>
FALLS/SLIPS or TRIPS	24.0%	29.8%	\$3,424
STRAIN/INJURIES	20.7%	39.0%	\$5,189
CUT/PUNCTURES	20.5%	2.8%	\$381
MISCELLANEOUS	12.1%	12.1%	\$2,743
STRUCK BY	8.7%	6.1%	\$1,925

To Prevent:

Falls:

- Download the “Slip/Trip/Fall Prevention Guide for Health Care Providers” from texasmutual.com or <http://tmgworkcomp.com>
- Develop system to identify patients that are more likely to fall and require assistance.
- Use slip resistant floor surfaces.
- Implement footwear policy and wear slip resistant shoes. Sample vendors: *Shoes for Crews*, *Tredsafe (Wal-Mart)*, and *SafeTStep (Payless Shoes)*
- Spills should be cleaned up immediately. Use wet floor signs.
- Develop a housekeeping schedule. Conduct facility self-inspections.
- Train employees in proper use of ladders and step stools. Use three point contact technique for ladder egress. Secure or use a ladder stabilizer.
- Employees should use precaution during egress to client homes. Report unsafe physical work conditions.

Strains:

- Conduct an assessment of patients and develop procedures for safe patient handling, lifting or transfer assistance and include requirements for additional personnel for non-ambulatory or difficult lifts
- Utilize various patient lift devices (i.e. stand-assist, ceiling mounted lift, portable lift devices, slide and transfer boards, draw sheet, trapeze bar) Train employees in equipment usage.
- Maintain lift aid equipment (i.e. patient lift, dollies, carts).
- Provide adequate staffing levels to deal with the workload to avoid single patient lifts.
- Train employees in Preventative and Management of Aggressive Behavior while working with patients.
- Download the “Back Injury Prevention Guide for Healthcare Providers” from texasmutual.com or from <http://tmgworkcomp.com>
- Utilize ONLINE STREAMING BACK INJURY PREVENTION VIDEOS available from texasmutual.com
- See Texas’ Safe Patient Handling Law, SB 1525 Sec. 256.002 Safe Patient Handling and Movement Policy

Struck/By:

- Download OSHA's "Guidelines for Preventing Workplace Violence for Healthcare Workers"
- Conduct an assessment of patients and develop procedures for safe handling of potentially violent patients including working in teams
- Conduct de-escalation training for care givers of mental patients
- Remove objects from rooms that can be used as projectiles or weapons
- Develop a security system with guards who can be alerted when patients, patient guests or co-workers become violent
- Encourage workers to report threats and aggressive or violent behaviors from patients, co-workers or visitors
- Ensure that parking lots are well lit, striped and marked to avoid struck-by vehicle accidents

Cut/Punctures:

- Use safer needle devices (i.e. needleless devices, self-sheathing, retractable, self-blunting, etc.).
- Dispose of needles into sharps containers.
- Train employees in universal precautions and the safe use of needle devices.

Motor Vehicles:

- Use authorized drivers and specifically discuss your cell phone and seat belt policies during the new employee orientation process!
- Require drivers to complete online defensive driving course or refresher courses.
- Maintain vehicles, conduct documented inspections of company and employee owned vehicles.
- Mandate seat belt usage for drivers and passengers.
- Avoid or restrict cell phone use while driving.
- View TMIC online streaming video "Distracted driving: lasting consequences of distracted driving".
- Develop a Fleet program which includes a policy statement, driver duties, write and explain the hands-free only or stop-to-talk cell phone policy and seat belt rules, check motor vehicle records before hiring and annually, require driver safety classes, vehicle inspections, thorough accident investigations.

Online Resources (Copy into browser):

- <http://tmgworkcomp.com> for newsletters, documents, safety rules for healthcare, sample programs, etc.
- www.texasmutual.com Over 275 FREE ONLINE STREAMING SAFETY VIDEOS, Administrators can use the "Manage Account" section in the online safety resource center to assign safety PIN for all employees who can then view online videos on their time schedule
- OSHA Bloodborne Pathogens: <http://www.osha.gov/SLTC/bloodbornepathogens/index.html>
- OSHA Latex <http://www.osha.gov/SLTC/latexallergy/index.html>
- OSHA Needlestick Animation Feature <http://www.osha.gov/SLTC/etools/hospital/hazards/sharps/sharps.html>
- Ergonomics <http://www.osha.gov/SLTC/etools/hospital/hazards/ergo/ergo.html#Ergonomics>
- OSHA Emergency Response: <http://www.osha.gov/Publications/OSHA3152/osha3152.html>
- OSHA Hazardous Drugs: <http://www.osha.gov/SLTC/hazardousdrugs/index.html>
- OSHA Guidelines for Preventing Workplace Violence for Health Care & Social Service Workers <http://www.osha.gov/publications/OSHA3148.html>