



MMLE Quarterly Newsletter

Department of Nursing and Ergonomics Division, OESO Vol. 2 No.1 Feb 2009

Safe Patient Handling Expands to Durham Regional Hospital's Radiology Department

Helping a patient stand or transferring a patient from a wheelchair are tasks typically performed by nursing staff. However, staff in Radiology have to perform these very same tasks to obtain radiologic images.

In 2006, the Department of Radiology at Durham Regional Hospital (DRH) implemented the Minimal Manual Lift Environment (MMLE) program, where a floor-based lift, a ceiling-mounted lift, and three types of lateral transfer devices were available for the staff to use to enhance safety for their patients and themselves.

Michael Zollo, a staff technologist in Diagnostic Radiology at that time, became a MMLE champion for the entire department and trained all his colleagues. Although training was completed, not all the staff used the equipment because of minimal promotion and enforcement.



Mike Zollo, Manager of Diagnostic Radiology at DRH

Two years after the MMLE implementation, Zollo was promoted to the manager position and made the use of patient handling equipment a requirement instead of an option. The staff are expected to use the equipment appropriately and their annual evaluations will reflect their compliance.

Besides implementing a policy, Zollo consistently promotes the use of the patient handling equipment during every division staff meeting with a "MMLE

Moment". He asks his staff to share any challenges and successes related to patient transfers and equipment use. Zollo believes that discussing the lifts and equipment during regular staff meetings serves as reminder to the staff about safety.

Zollo reported that there has been a decrease in back injuries since the implementation of MMLE. From January 1, 2007 to December 31, 2008, Diagnostic Radiology only had two reported back injuries. Obviously, the MMLE program has made a positive and safe impact in Radiology under Mike Zollo's leadership!

News & Upcoming Events

MMLE Coaches' Training

February 23, 2009

7:30 a.m.—11:30 a.m. &
12:30 p.m. — 4:30 p.m.

Conducted by DUHS Clinical Education & Professional Development and Ergonomics Division, OESO

Mark Your Calendar: 3rd Annual MMLE Coaches' Conference

May 15, 2009

Sponsored by the Department of Nursing. Open to MMLE coaches in DUHS. Stay tuned for more information or email: yeuli.yeung@duke.edu

DRH — MMLE Coaches' Quarterly Meeting

Durham Regional Hospital

The 4th Monday of the month. Next meeting—April 27, 2009, 12 p.m. to 1 p.m. Contact Dawne Lewis at 470-6368 or

Send questions, comments, or ideas for the newsletter:

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