

Documenting Amount of Manual Lifting Performed by Nurses in a Hospital Setting

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A better delineation of the amount and type of lifting performed by nurses will more accurately represent the exposure to heavy lifting for nurses, potentially leading to more targeted interventions and better utilization of bed design parameters and assist devices. The objective of this proposed pilot study is to determine the prevalence and types of nurse performed manual repositioning and transferring actions of hospital patients and medical equipment. Manual repositioning and transferring includes moving patients on the bed (pulling up in bed, rotating side to side, increasing comfort and administering treatment), moving patients from the bed to other locations or devices (to commode, wheelchair, chairs and medical devices) and moving patients from other devices to the hospital bed. Any medical equipment manually handled by nurses during the shift will also be documented. Medical equipment would include transportable medical devices such as defibrillators, crash carts, and electronic medical record (EMR) devices. Secondary objectives will be to identify the prevalence of using lift assists or other transfer assist devices as well as compare the objectively measured lifting prevalence to subjective assessment from the nurses. Data on the frequency and types of repositioning actions will be collected by observation with the assistance of a checklist recorded on a PDA (personal digital assistant).

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Main Menu

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- ◆ Welcome and Opening Remarks
- ◆ Keynote Speakers
- ◆ Podium Presentations
- ◆ Poster Presentations
- ◆ Video Montage of the 12th Annual PRP Symposium
- ◆ Participating Universities
- ◆ Steering Committee Members
- ◆ Acknowledgements
- ◆ Problems Viewing the Videos

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