



October 1, 2023

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New Mexico Occupational Health and Safety Bureau (OHSB) Directive 24-06

Subject: State Emphasis Program (SEP) for Hospitals, Nursing and Residential Care Facilities (NAICS 622110, 62311 and 623311).

- A. Purpose: This notice establishes an SEP for Health and Safety Hazards Associated with Hospitals, Nursing and Residential Care Facilities (NAICS 622110, 62311 and 623311).

- B. Scope: This notice applies to the State of New Mexico OHSB.

- C. References: The following documents are referenced in or applicable to this instruction.
 - 1. New Mexico Field Operations Manual
 - 2. OSHA Information System (OIS) Modules for Enforcement, Consultation and Compliance Assistance, current and subsequent versions.
 - 3. OSHA Instruction CPL 2-0.102.A, November 10, 1999, Procedures for Approval of Local Emphasis Programs (LEP).
 - 4. OSHA Instruction CPL 2-00-051, February 23, 2005, Exemptions and Limitations Under the Appropriations Act, with current Appendix A.
 - 5. OSHA Instruction CPL 02-02-069, Enforcement Procedures for the Occupational Exposure to Bloodborne Pathogens Standard, November 27, 2001.
 - 6. OSHA Instruction CPL 02-01-052, Enforcement Procedures for Investigating or Inspecting Workplace Violence Incidents, September 8, 2011.
 - 7. OSHA Instruction CPL 02-00-135, Recordkeeping Policies and Procedures Manual (RKM), December 30, 2004.
 - 8. OSHA Instruction CPL 02-02-079, Inspection Procedures for the Hazard Communication Standard (HCS 2012), July 9, 2015.

D. Cancellation: This notice cancels the New Mexico Occupational Health and Safety Bureau (OHSB) Directive 23-06 dated October 1, 2023.

E. Expiration: This notice expires on September 30, 2024 but may be renewed as necessary.

F. Action: OHSB Compliance, Compliance Assistance, and Consultation personnel will ensure that the procedures contained in this notice are followed.

G. Background: OHSB is initiating this SEP to address high injury and illness rates in New Mexico hospital, nursing and residential care industries that are anticipated to continue experiencing high employment growth rates and high injury and illness rates.

Information obtained from the New Mexico Department of Workforce Solutions has projected employment growth between 2020 and 2030 to be 16.9% for Hospitals (NAICS 622), and 10.1% for Nursing and Residential Care Facilities (NAICS 623).

Information obtained from the Bureau of Labor Statistics reveals that both the total recordable cases (TRC) and recordable cases with days away, restricted, or transferred (DART) rates are higher than the average for all industries for both Hospitals (NAICS 622) and Nursing and Residential Care Facilities (NAICS 623) since implementation of the SEP in 2013. The rates in 2019 for Hospitals and Nursing and Residential Care Facilities included TRC rates for NAICS 622 at 5.6 and for NAICS 623 at 6.3 in New Mexico, compared to the average rate of 2.5 for all industries in the state, and DART rates of 1.9 and 3.0 respectively, compared to 1.2 for all industries.

This directive was initially issued in 2012 to include the hazards of ergonomics, bloodborne pathogens (BBP) and slips, trips and falls. OHSB has added the hazards of workplace violence, chemical hazards, and non-BBP multi-drug resistant organisms (MRDOs).

H. Compliance Procedures:

In FY 2024, the OHSB will conduct approximately five (5) inspections at healthcare facilities classified by the NAICS codes 622 and 623 including at least one from the public sector.

1. An establishment list of employers to inspect will be created from the listing of hospitals provided by the New Mexico Hospital Association. A listing of employers in the nursing and residential care industry will be created using InfoUSA and/or other business directories. These lists will be used for assignments of programmed inspections.
2. Any fixed site establishment that has received a substantially complete inspection within the previous three years, will be deleted from the current inspection cycle.
3. The list will be consecutively numbered and a random numbers table applied. The inspection cycle for the fiscal year will consist of the first four (4) randomly selected establishments. If a public facility is not among those selected the process will be repeated to ensure a public facility is chosen for inspection. Additional randomly selected establishments may be added to the list if an establishment is out of business or cannot otherwise be inspected. Comprehensive inspections will be conducted of all establishments selected.

4. OHSB reserves the right to re-inspect any establishment that has a fatality, in-patient hospitalization, amputation, or loss of an eye, or receives a complaint or referral at any time during the period covered by this notice.
5. The normal procedures described in the New Mexico Field Operation Manual will be used to conduct the inspection. In addition, the following guidelines will be followed for the special emphasis on ergonomic, bloodborne pathogen, and slips, trips, and falls issues.
 - a. Ergonomics. Guidance for determining resident handling risk factors is as follows. Inspections of resident handling risk factors will begin with an initial process designed to determine the extent of resident handling hazards and the manner in which they are addressed. This will be accomplished by an assessment of establishment incidence and severity rates, whether such rates are increasing or decreasing over a three-year period, and whether the establishment has implemented a process to address these hazards in a manner that can be expected to have a useful effect. When assessing an employer's efforts to address these hazards, the Compliance Officer should evaluate program elements, such as the following:
 - i. Program Management
 - Is there a system for hazard identification and analysis?
 - Who has responsibility and authority for compliance with the system?
 - Have employees provided input in the development of the lifting, transferring, or repositioning procedures?
 - Is there a system for monitoring compliance with the policies and procedures and for following up on deficiencies?
 - Have there been recent changes in the policies or procedures and what effect have the changes had on injuries and illnesses?
 - ii. Program Implementation
 - How is resident mobility determined?
 - What is the decision logic for using lift, transfer, or repositioning devices?
 - Who decides how to lift, transfer, or reposition residents?
 - Is there an adequate quantity and variety of appropriate lift, transfer, or repositioning devices available? Note that no single lift assist device is appropriate in all circumstances.
 - Are there adequate numbers of slings for lifting devices, appropriate types and sizes of slings specific for all residents, and appropriate quantities and types of the assistive devices (such as but not limited to slip sheets, transfer devices, repositioning devices) available within close proximity and maintained in a usable and sanitary condition?

- Are the policies and procedures appropriate to eliminate or reduce exposure to the manual lifting, transferring, or repositioning hazards at the establishment?

iii. Employee Training

- Have employees been trained in the recognition of hazards associated with manual resident lifting, transferring, or repositioning?
- Have employees been trained in the early reporting of injuries?
- Have employees been trained in the establishment's process for abating these hazards?
- Can employees demonstrate competency in performing lifting, transferring, or repositioning using the assistive devices?

iv. Occupational Health Management

- Is there a process in place to ensure that work-related disorders are identified and treated early to prevent the occurrence of more serious problems?
- Does this process include restricted or accommodated work assignments?

v. Citation Issuance

The General Duty Clause, Section 50.9.5 of the Act may be used if the employer did not furnish a place of employment which was free from recognized hazards that were likely to cause serious physical harm to employees who were required to perform lifting tasks resulting in stressors that have caused or were likely to cause musculoskeletal disorders (MSDs). Consider the following language:

“Evaluation of the task of manually handling residents indicates that employees are exposed to a hazard which is causing or likely to cause MSDs. Employees were required to transfer non-weight bearing and partial weight bearing residents manually by lifting or partially lifting them, exposing employees to lifting related hazards resulting in injuries and disorders such as lumbar or back strain, herniated disks, and various shoulder injuries.

OHSB has determined that one method of addressing these stressors is to implement a no manual lift policy for transferring and lifting of non-weight bearing and partial weight bearing residents. This necessitates the use of mechanical lift assist and transfer devices.”

b. Bloodborne Pathogens

Procedures for conducting inspections and preparing citations for occupational exposure to blood and other potentially infectious materials (OPIM) are detailed in [CPL 02-02-069](#) - *Enforcement Procedures for the Occupational Exposure to Bloodborne Pathogens*. Note that the following is not an exhaustive list and further guidance may be found at the above referenced CPL.

- i. The Compliance Officer should evaluate the employer's written Exposure Control Plan by assessing the implementation of appropriate engineering and work practice controls. Areas to be evaluated include:
 - Determine which procedures require the use of a sharp medical device and whether the employer has evaluated, selected, and is using sharps with engineered sharps injury protection and needless system.
 - Confirm that all tasks involving sharps have been evaluated for the implementation of safer devices. For example, determine whether the employer has implemented a policy requiring use of safety engineered needles for pre-filled syringes and single-use safety engineered blood tube holders.
 - Determine whether non-managerial employees participated in the selection of safer devices.
 - Determine if a safer device would compromise safety of the outcome of a medical practice.
- ii. Ensure that work practices and personal protective equipment are in place.
- iii. Assess whether regulated waste disposal is performed properly.
- iv. Evaluate the availability of hand washing facilities. If immediate access to handwashing facilities is not feasible, ascertain whether skin cleansers are used (e.g., alcohol gels).
- v. Ensure that a program is in place for immediate and proper clean-up of spills, and disposal of contaminated materials, specifically for spills of blood or other body fluids.
- vi. Ensure that the employer has chosen an EPA-approved disinfectant to clean contaminated work surfaces.
- vii. Determine that the employer has made available (at no cost and within 10 working days of initial assignment) the hepatitis B virus vaccination series to all employees with occupational exposure to blood and other potentially infectious materials and that any declinations are documented.
- viii. Ensure that employees who have contact with residents or blood and are at ongoing risk for percutaneous injuries are offered an antibody test, in accordance with the U.S. Public Health Service Guidelines.
- ix. Ensure that adequate procedures are in place for post-exposure evaluation.
- x. Ensure that appropriate warning labels and signs are present.
- xi. Determine whether employees receive training in accordance with the standard.
- xii. Citation Issuance: If the employer is in violation of the Bloodborne Pathogens Standard, the employer will be cited in accordance with [CPL 02-02-069](#).

c. Slips, Trips, and Falls

The following guidance should be used for recognizing these types of hazards:

- i. Evaluate the general work environments and document hazards likely to cause slips, trips, and falls such as:
 - Slippery or wet floors
 - Uneven floors
 - Cluttered or obstructed work areas
 - Poorly maintained walkways, broken equipment
 - Inadequate lighting
- ii. Note any policies, procedures, and or engineering controls used to deal with wet surfaces.
- iii. Citing. Where hazards are noted, the Compliance Officer should cite use subparts D and J of 29 CFR 1910.

d. Workplace Violence.

Workplace violence (WPV) is a recognized hazard in nursing and residential care facilities. NIOSH defines workplace violence as violent acts (including physical assaults and threats of assaults) directed toward persons at work or on duty. Enforcement Procedures for Investigating or Inspecting Workplace Violence Incidents, [CPL 02-01-052](#), adopted by OHSB on September 20, 2011, establishes enforcement policies and provides uniform procedures which apply when conducting inspections in response to incidents of workplace violence. OSHA Instruction, [CPL 02-01-052](#), directs CSHOs, who conduct programmed inspections at worksites that are in industries with high incidence of workplace violence such as health and residential care facilities, to investigate for the potential or existence of this hazard.

- i. Citation Guidance. In accordance with the FOM's general guidance on general duty citations, citations should focus on the specific hazard employees are exposed to, not the events that caused the incident or the lack of a particular abatement method. The OSHA workplace violence directive also contains sample language for hazard alert letters.

e. Other Hazards.

As detailed in the FOM, when additional hazards come to the attention of the compliance officer, the scope of the inspection may be expanded to include those hazards. Although exposure to hazardous chemicals (i.e., hazard communication) is not included in the target hazards under this SEP, if this or other hazards become known during the course of an inspection conducted under this SEP, they should be investigated.

- i. Hazard Communication. Employee exposures to hazardous chemicals, such as sanitizers, disinfectants, and hazardous drugs may be encountered in nursing and residential care facilities. Employers are required to implement a written program that meets the requirements of the Hazard Communication standard (HCS) to provide worker training, warning labels and access to Material Safety Data Sheets (MSDSs). Citation Issuance: If the employer is in violation of the Hazard Communication Standard, the employer will be cited in accordance with OSHA Instruction CPL 02-02-079, Inspection Procedures for the Hazard Communication Standard (HCS 2012), July 9, 2015.

I. Compliance Assistance Procedures

The Compliance Assistance Specialists should conduct a minimum of two (2) activities per year such as:

1. Conducting outreach activities at annual conventions for industry associations;
2. Developing and distributing outreach materials and publications;
3. Developing materials to include on the OHSB web page;
4. Conducting formal and informational presentations and training in collaboration with industry associations; and,
5. Providing technical assistance.

J. Consultation Procedures

The OHSB Consultants will conduct a minimum of two (2) activities per year such as:

1. Assigning a high priority to consultation requests from healthcare facilities;
2. Conducting consultation visits;
3. Participating in industry association conventions to solicit consultation requests and to distribute outreach materials;
4. Creating and distributing mailings explaining compliance section focus on healthcare and availability of resources to include compliance assistance and consultation services;
5. Distributing electronically developed outreach materials;
6. Conducting formal and information presentations and training as requested; and,
7. Providing technical assistance.

K. OIS Recording:

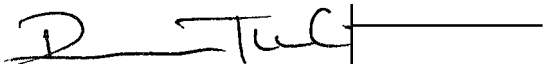
Information pertaining to this healthcare initiative shall be recorded in the OIS following current instructions in each of the respective modules in the OIS User Guides. The identifier code will be "NURSING".

L. Evaluation:

An evaluation of the effectiveness of this state emphasis program will be conducted at the end of each fiscal year. An evaluation report will be written and submitted to the Bureau Chief within 90 days of the end of each fiscal year. The evaluation report may be included as part of the New Mexico OSHA Annual Report (SOAR). Elements to be considered in the evaluation include:

1. Effectiveness of the State Emphasis Program targeting system;
2. Number of establishments and/or operations inspected under the program;
3. Number of establishments and/or operations that appeared to be in violation of OHSB standards and/or general duty requirement of the OHS Act;
4. Number of employees removed from risk;
5. Number of hazards abated;
6. Number of activities conducted by Compliance Assistance; and,
7. Number of activities conducted by the Consultation section.

By and Under the Authority of

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "R. Genoway", followed by a horizontal line extending to the right.

Robert Genoway

Chief, Occupational Health and Safety Bureau