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UNISON national health and safety seminar / Belfast 2019



# Musculoskeletal Disorders



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# The Body Map

## **EXERCISE**

Each person is to take ONE tab and stick it to the area on the body map that hurts most at the end of your working day.

Are there any key areas?

Is there any similarities in the jobs you do?

Discuss.....

# Background

MSD's including Manual handling

The most common cause of ill health in UK

Major cause of sickness absence

Can result in lifelong conditions

Upper & lower limbs

Repetitive Strain Injury(RSI)

Frozen shoulder

Carpal tunnel syndrome

# Statistics – HSE figures 2013/14

1.2 million people suffer work related illness

78,000 injuries reported via RIDDOR

629,000 injuries at work – LF survey

28.2 million working days lost, illness & injury

£14.2 billion cost to society(2012/13)

MSD's – 526,000(Out of total 1,241,000 WRI)

184,000 new cases, up from 141,000 in 2012/13

8.3 million working day lost due to MSD's

## Cause & Effect

Lack of training & supervision

Tasks not properly assessed

No Risk ratings

Poor or non-existent DSE Assessments

Lack of or unsuitable training for manager/supervisor

Lack of mechanical aids

No proper maintenance

Poor or no consultation with Safety reps

# Case study – NSW – Health Service

## The task

A newly built hospital had received reports from the nurses that the carpets made the mobile patient hoist far too difficult to manoeuvre. As a result the nurses stopped using the hoists.

## **Assessing the risk**

The nurses identified that the carpets were an important risk factor in the task. When a patient was occupying the hoist, the wheels sank into the carpet, making it difficult to move. The hoist's wheels were made from rubber, which is suitable for smooth and/or hard floors.

## Case study - continued

## The solution

Consulting with the supplier they found it was possible to change the wheels of the hoist to a type that is more suited for use on carpets such as polyurethane. The required force to manoeuvre the hoist was reduced by approximately 40% due to the new wheels. The hoists were now used when necessary for moving patients.

## Prevention

MH Risk Assessments
Assessment charts (MAC)
Instruction, supervision & training
Policy & procedure on prevention
Safe system of work plan's

## Prevention

Injury management
Retention, rehabilitation & return to work
Including appropriate use of Occupational Health
Legal compliance (RIDDOR etc.)
Internal auditing

# Managing MSD's at Work EXERCISE

# In groups discuss systems in place at your work to prevent MSD's.

Do they work?

Are there other (better) ways to minimise the risk?

Discuss.....

# Branch approach

Training & development of our Safety reps Ensure proper consultation & legal compliance Including the procurement of equipment & task/job design Ensuring workplace adjustments where required Dealing with Attendance management issues Identify useful resources & information Discussing & raising issue with the employers Local Safety committees Corporate Safety issue Legal advice & representation

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## **Further information**

Hse.gov.uk/msd/mac

Hseni.gov.uk/prevention

Arthritisresearch.uk.org

hse.gov.uk/research/rrpdf/rr799.pdf

nhsinform.co.uk/msk/back

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# Thank you! Any Questions?



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