

“How To Avoid Injuries With Safety Initiatives”

March 22, 2018

10:20 – 11:10 pm

NANT SYMPOSIUM

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“How To Avoid Injuries With Safety Initiatives”

1. Anti Slip Flooring Application:

a. Pilot Program Results

- Spent \$168,000 for 1 year pilot program (2016 – 2017)***
- Pilot program selected based on 3 year history for slip and fall claims on liquids, as well as weather challenges***
- Results were only 2 slip and falls in 1 year at those pilot locations with total incurred of only \$420***
- Average workers’ compensation spent for those pilot clinics was \$469,051 annually***
- Total WC savings of \$468,631***



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- 1. Anti Slip Flooring Application (cont'd):***
 - b. Non-Slip Chemical floor treatment product increases the coefficient of friction on wet surfaces between 200 to 400 percent***
 - c. A static anti-slip coefficient of friction of .50 or above is considered a safe walkway surface with a dry condition.***
 - d. Implemented this at another 100 clinic locations in 2017 and selection criteria was the history of slip and falls, the actual flooring, the age of the clinic and weather conditions***



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2. Hi-Lift Scissor Cart Program:

- Offered scissor lift cart for the following tasks involving material handling:
 - Brine tank – loading salt bags (40 lbs.)
 - Granuflo (box – 45 lbs. bags – 15 lbs.) – acid tank
 - Naturalyte (18 lbs.) – loading bicarb tank
 - Stored materials (31 lbs.) – working from ladder
 - Depalletizing boxes of saline solution, others.
 - Carbon tank rebedding
- Targeting manual material handling involving back and shoulder injuries



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2. Hi-Lift Scissor Cart Program (cont'd):

- *High lift scissor cart – 770 lb. capacity; 51-1/2 inch maximum lift*
- *Total scissor lift cart purchase – 182*
- *Reduced WC claim count by 54% (54 claims) from 2010 – 2017*
- *Reduced WC incurred by 74% (\$1,300,336) from 2010 – 2017*
- *Net savings = \$1,191,136 (\$1,300,336 – 109,200)*



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3. Acute setting:

- *Change 3 inch castor wheels of existing acute care carts to 5 inch castor wheels for RO / dialysis machine carts used in hospitals. This reduced the number of employee soft tissue strain/sprain injuries by reducing the amount of force needed to push the cart.*
- *Offered ergo cart and ergo docking station carts for the RO and dialysis machines.*
- *As of 11/17, for acute care, 2,016 new ergo carts purchased. There are only 2,984 old carts remaining.*
- *The original cart force required to initiate push of cart was 71 lbs.*



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3. Acute setting (cont'd):

- The reengineered cart force required to sustain push is 38 lbs., (46 percent force reduction).*
- Projected savings: 2012 – 2017*
 - Reduced WC claim count by 24% (110 claims)*
 - Reduced WC incurred cost by 15% (\$836,718)*



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4. Rolling Stools:

- Replaced the standard 4 or 5 wheel rolling stools with new high resistance caster stools with larger seat pan, high back. The high back giving better support, visibility and steerage. The high resistance casters free stool movement when occupied and resists unnecessary stool movement when unoccupied or when exiting the stool.
- Reduced the number of employee falls from having the rolling stool slide out from underneath them. Had 250 clinics purchase 1223 new stools with huge success.
- 3 years rolling stool claims – 85 WC claims; \$1,145,116
- Projected savings is \$227,365 - \$175,595 (stools) or \$51,770.



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5. Moving / relocating machines between clinics:

- Evaluating outside company to do this task.



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6. *Electric Hoyer Lift with built in digital scale:*

- *Implemented in 2005 at a \$2.3M expense to all locations***
- *Cost savings, as of 2017, is \$12.2M and collateral savings of \$5.5M***
- *Most successful safety initiative in preventing employee soft tissue injuries and patient falls to and from the scale and to and from the wheelchair to dialysis chair***

7. *Selection of vendor alternatives:*

- *Went from 50 lb. salt bags to 40 lb. salt bags with a built-in handle on package***

8. *Optimum placement of materials for end use*

- *Stored the materials at the closest point of use to avoid unnecessary lifting/transfer of materials. Example is the salt bags stored next to the brine tank***



“Loss Control Initiatives”

9. Admission, Handling and Safe Movement of the Morbidly Obese Patient Policy

- To protect employees from patient handling injuries while the patients are cared for safely*
- Use of mechanical patient lift equipment whenever possible*
- Training on safe patient handling and movement*
- Utilize expanded capacity equipment safety checklist*

10. Transfer of Patients in Wheelchairs on Stretchers Within the Clinic Policy

- Determine appropriate assistance required by all patients in wheelchairs or stretchers for patient and facility staff safety*

11. Automatic Door Maintenance Program

- Maintenance of the facility automatic doors for proper door function*



“Loss Control Initiatives”

12. Fumigation concerns (i.e. – for termites):

- Clear plan to remove equipment and supplies including but not limited to:**
 - All ancillary medical equipment (O₂ concentrators, IV pumps, etc.)**
 - RO water purification system including tank loop and valve boxes**
 - Concentrate mixing and distribution systems, tanks, including loops**
 - Medical supplies and medications**



“Loss Control Initiatives”

13. Smoke Scenario Concerns (i.e. – wild fires):

- Consider HVAC company to perform following:
 - Close fresh air intake to 95%
 - Install activated carbon air filter as pre filter to pleated air filter
 - Replace existing pleated air filter with new pleated air filter
 - Utilize self contained 110V carbon and ionizer air cleansing units – number of units depends upon square footage



“Loss Control Initiatives”

14. Electrical Leakage Policy:

- Patient undergoing dialysis is much more susceptible to electrocution as during dialysis the patient’s blood is in contact with electrical component and electrical ground of dialysis machine. Large and even small electrical leakage currents have greater risk of causing harm to patient while connected to dialysis machine. As such, any device that could be used by patient or in vicinity of patient should be on battery power.

