

Memorandum of understanding between Association of Unions and Health Employers Association of British Columbia (Excerpt)*

Manual Lifting

The parties agree to establish a goal of eliminating all unsafe manual lifts of patients/residents through the use of mechanical equipment except where the use of mechanical lifting equipment would be a risk to the well-being of the patients/residents.

The Employer shall make every reasonable effort to ensure the provision of sufficient trained staff and appropriate equipment to handle patients/residents safely at all times, and specifically to avoid the need to manually lift patients/residents when unsafe to do so. If the use of mechanical equipment would be a risk to the well-being of the patients/residents, sufficient staff must be made available to lift patients/residents safely.

The parties agree to take the following immediate steps through the Occupational Health and Safety Agency for Healthcare to achieve this goal throughout the sub-sector.

- (a) Work in partnership with the Workers' Compensation Board, the Ministry of Health and others to establish a financing framework to make funds available to purchase the necessary mechanical equipment;
- (b) Finalize and distribute clear industry guidelines for safe patients/residents handling;
- (c) Encourage the full participation of the local Joint Occupational Health and Safety Committee in the development, implementation and on-going monitoring of this goal;

Recommend to the Ministry of Health that all new health care facilities be equipped with appropriate lifting equipment;

Produce an annual report card on the progress to date including specific recommendations for the coming year.

Signed on behalf of HEABC: Tony Collins

Date: March 17, 2001

Signed on behalf of the Association: Chris Allnutt

Date: March 18, 2001

**This excerpt is provided here courtesy of the Association of Unions and the Health Employers Association of British Columbia.*