

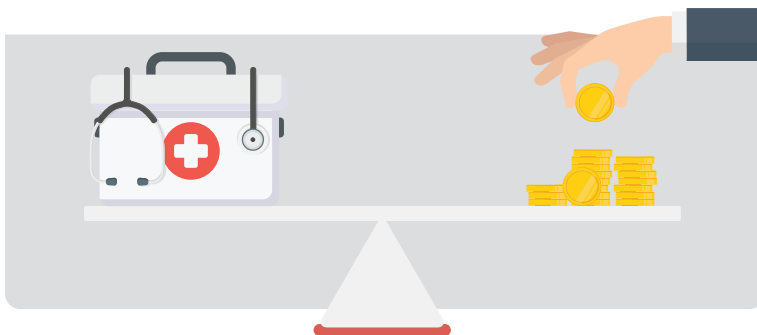
ISSUE 5: IN-SERVICE BRIEF

Part 1: ERGONOMIC IMPACT IN HEALTHCARE – CLINICAL AND COST

Ergonomics is the science of designing equipment to optimize the interaction between the work environment and the worker. Healthcare facilities are prone to ergonomic related injuries due to the nature of the work and to the ergonomic stressors effecting their staff.

Employee injuries lead to increase cost, higher turnover rates, increased sick days, and short staffing.

Most injuries are a result from overexertion. These result from:



Providing an effective ergonomic safety program can help reduce costly injuries to hospitals and can help reduce injuries to employees. The annual expense totals **\$2 billion** in USD.¹ Eight out of 10 nurses (**80%**) report that they frequently work with musculoskeletal pain.²

These injuries' direct cost is the actual healthcare bill.

1. American Nurses Association (ANA). ANA health & safety survey hazards of the RN work environment published 2011
2. American perioperative nurses association (AORN) Risk Solutions. Health Care Workers Compensation published 2012
3. Safe patient/resident handling guide. Saif Corporations. published 2010

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The cycle of injury

Most injuries are under reported indirect cost such as but not limited to:

- **lost productivity**
- **paying overtime for other employees**
- **finding and hiring temporary or new employees retraining³**

These injuries can be avoided with **proper training, ergonomic awareness, proper tools, and accessibility to assistive technologies.**

Implementing and maintaining a strong program can be the key to a safe environment.