

HEALTH & SAFETY INFORMATION BULLETIN



Source: HSE December 2009

Nottingham University Hospitals **NHS**
NHS Trust

**Health, Safety & Ergonomics
Department –
Have a Happy but safe Christmas**

This briefing is intended to give an overview of current developments in the field of health and safety, both internal to the organisation and externally that may have an impact on NUH.

GENERAL HOT TOPICS

<p>Recent HSE visits/contact with the Trust –</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 1 New and Expectant Mother Risk Assessments 2 Asbestos 3 Slips, Trips & Falls 	<p>During 2009 the HSE have contacted/visited the Trust regarding 3 separate topics; New & Expectant Mother Risk Assessments, Asbestos & Slips, Trips & Falls.</p> <p>The HSE contacted the Trust regarding a pregnant member of staff who had not had a risk assessment. They reminded the Trust that all risk assessments must take into account women of child bearing age. The Trust has a New and Expectant Mother at Work Procedure which all managers and risk assessors should be aware of.</p> <p>During the annual inspection & stripping down of the Queens Medical Centre campus boiler there was an accidental release of asbestos. The HSE visited to follow up the RIDDOR report; they investigated the incident and were satisfied that procedures were in place and had been followed and that the Trust was working positively with the contractors, Eon.</p> <p>Finally, Slips, Trips & Falls (S,T & F) continues to be a priority area for the HSE and they visited the Trust to review our S,T & F management, cleaning and response arrangements for reporting and dealing with spillages. A number of minor recommendations were made which are incorporated into an action plan, with progress being monitored through the Trusts Health & Safety Committee.</p>
<p>Electronic Incident Reporting Trial ~ DATIX</p>	<p>A trial of electronic incident reporting (i.e. via the intranet) will be running in Acute Medicine from 1st January 2010, prior to a rollout across the entire Trust. The system will be available from any computer on the NUH network, and there isn't any special training required. Paper forms will still be available to cater for staff groups who don't have regular access to a computer.</p>
<p>Needlestick Update</p>	<p>All needle stick incidents should be reported using the Trust Incident reporting form. Staff who experience needle stick injuries should also attend Occupational Health Department for follow up treatment and advice.</p> <p>Incident reports help the Trust to learn lessons, prevent any future incidents and are also a legal requirement under health & safety legislations.</p> <p>All used sharps should be disposed of in sharps bin provided, they should NEVER be disposed of in bin bags, sharps bin should be closed off when they are 2/3 full.</p>
<p>Patient & Load Manual Handling courses</p>	<p>Both Patient Manual Handling, Medics Manual Handling & Load Handling courses are now available as part of the Mandatory training programme – for dates see Health & Safety or Learning & Organisational Websites.</p> <p>Please ensure that you book places for patient Manual Handling & Medics sessions (these are not drop-in sessions).</p>

RECENT & FORTHCOMING LEGISLATION

The Health & Safety Executive (HSE) now launches new legislation on 2 dates throughout the year, April & October....

The Carriage of Dangerous Goods and Use of Transportable Pressure Equipment Regulations 2009 (CDG 2009) and the European agreement ("Accord européen relatif au transport international des marchandises dangereuses par route", known as ADR) which together regulate the carriage of dangerous goods by road are highly prescriptive. The regulations were substantially restructured for 2009 with direct referencing to ADR for the main duties. This guidance does not include reference to the carriage of radioactive substances. Like many duty holders the Trust has access to a 'Dangerous Goods Safety Adviser' and thus access to the specialist knowledge needed to navigate the regulations and ADR.

Musculoskeletal Movement planned ~ The European Commission is expected to publish by late Spring 2010 a proposal for a single Directive on work-related musculoskeletal disorders (MSDs). The proposal will cover all MSDs and combine the provisions of the 1989 manual handling and display screen equipment Directives, while allowing for a "flexible approach" to risk assessment. The HSE hopes the proposal will "fill in the gaps" between the two existing Directives, which have "not provided the improvements that were needed", failed to take a holistic approach to the management of MSD risks and are based on an "old fashioned" approach that is reliant on training. Any subsequent changes to the legislation will be reflected within our policies and procedures.

RECENT CASES/CLAIMS

Legionnaire's fine for NHS Trust	The Liverpool Heart and Chest Hospital NHS Trust has to pay nearly £48,000 in fines and costs after it allowed unsafe levels of legionella bacteria to multiply in its water system. The HSE found high levels of the bacteria in the hospital's water supply for its showers, baths and sinks. The hospital ignored a specialist contractor's recommendations and failed to implement suitable measures to control the risks. No one in senior management took responsibility for overseeing a legionella control regime. NUH has in place a legionella committee which is a sub-group of the Infection Prevention & Control Committee. The NUH legionella subgroup oversees delivery of the management of legionella within NUH and is chaired by Tim Boswell, Consultant Microbiologist.
Health & Safety fine for car park barrier incident	An incident in which a loose car park barrier swung and hit an employee sitting in his car has cost supermarket giant Morrisons £183,282. It was found that the barrier arm, which should always be fixed either open or shut, had been unsecured for up to 2 months. The supermarket also failed adequately to train its staff to lock the barrier safely. Although a 2002 risk assessment by the supermarket had recognised the risk posed by barriers and produced a procedure to manage them it had failed to bring this procedure to the staff's attention.
NHS Trust fined £6,500 under RIDDOR 95 and HASAWA 1974 s33.	Princess Alexandra NHS Trust has been fined £6,500 under the Reporting of Injuries, Diseases and Dangerous Occurrences Regulations 1995 and the Health & Safety at Work Act 1974 for failing to comply with an Improvement Notice previously issued by the HSE and failure to report to them a case of Occupational Dermatitis. Within the next few weeks all departments will receive the new NUH Incident Reporting Policies & Procedures Manual which sets out the provisions of reporting as per RIDDOR. Please ensure you familiarise yourselves with the contents upon its arrival.

Your contacts

If there is an issue relating to Health & Safety at Work you wish to discuss your contacts are as follows:

Queens Campus H & S queries: Heather Churchill ext 62316

Queens Ergonomics queries: Margaret Stone ext 62745

City Campus H & S queries: Locksley McPherson ext 59629

City Campus Ergonomics queries: Margaret Stone ext 56109 / Ruth Whyard ext 57127

Incident Reporting/DATIX queries: Haydn Williams ext 62743

There are also **union** health & safety representatives within the Trust, if you haven't a local representative please contact bob.browne@nuh.nhs.uk