Background

The University of Rochester Medical Center (URMC) is an 838-bed, academic teaching hospital with approximately 13,000 employees. UR Medicine encompasses multiple affiliate organizations and ambulatory practices. Musculoskeletal injuries related to patient movement and handling are among the leading causes of injuries for healthcare professionals. Prompted by continued injuries among direct care staff and the introduction of New York State legislation in January 2016, an interdisciplinary Safe Patient Handling (SPH) Program was established to provide a multi-departmental approach to reducing staff injuries as a result of patient movement. This program, intended for direct care staff, flourished by expanding to additional areas outside of the intended audience.

Objectives

- Decrease musculoskeletal injuries among healthcare staff resulting from patient handling and movement
- Implement state regulations by the development and maintenance of a safe patient handling culture
- Develop a comprehensive, evidence-based SPH program which includes:
  - Policy Updates
  - Hazard Assessment
  - Initial and Annual Education Plan
  - Incident Investigation
  - Environmental & Space Planning
  - Communication & Marketing
  - Annual Program Evaluation
  - Financial Support & Vendor Selection

Expected Outcomes

- Reduction in staff musculoskeletal injuries
- Contributions to the reduction in falls and other hospital-acquired conditions among patients
- Financial savings due to decreased worker’s compensation claims
- Collaboration among care providers at all levels will promote a safe patient handling culture change
- Improved patient satisfaction

Innovation & Change

- Collaboration among UR Medicine workforce including providers, nurses, technicians, physical therapy, occupational therapy, respiratory therapy, transportation, secretaries, morgue, facilities, clinical engineering, corporate purchasing and senior leadership.
- Collaboration with UR Medicine affiliates across the region
- Provides a framework for new interdisciplinary initiatives
- Fosters continued interdisciplinary educational initiatives
- Interdisciplinary communication improved across the medical center
- Interdisciplinary education is achievable on a large scale

References & Acknowledgements

- Title 1-A of Article 29-D, added to the Public Health Law by Chapter 60 of the Laws of 2014, Part A, § 20
- Special thanks to the SPH Committee members, Katherine Root, CH, CSP, Stephanie VonBacho, MS, RN, NEA-BC, Patricia Witzel, MS, RN, MBA and Ann Geiger

Future SPH Initiatives

- SPH Campaign Draft from Marketing
- Injury Investigation
- NNW Professional Wellness Day
- Interdisciplinary education launched to 8,200 employees