Reducing Staff Injuries: The Impact of a Safe Patient Handling Program







Katie Franz, BSN, RN; PVAMC Safe Patient Handling Coordinator; VA Medical Center, Portland OR

Introduction

- At the Portland VA Medical Center (PVAMC), the number of paid claims for manual patient handling injuries increased 13% from Fiscal Year (FY)07 through FY09, resulting in expenditures close to \$500,000
- An innovative and comprehensive Safe Patient Handling (SPH) Program was implemented in 2009 to reduce injuries and associated costs

Discussion

Insights

- Our comprehensive Safe Patient Handling Program results include:
- Considerable reductions in staff injuries
- Significant cost savings
- Easily accessible SPH equipment, a dedicated Program Coordinator and the Unit Peer Leader role are pivotal in cultivating and sustaining a minimal lift culture

Challenges

- Cultivating culture change
- Securing time for Unit Peer Leaders to fulfill their role
- Sling distribution from central storage to individual units/areas
- Acquiring money for equipment purchases

Looking Ahead

- Expand training to disciplines beyond nursing → medical staff, compensation and pension
- Expand role of Unit Peer Leader → get involved with hospital wide planning and decision making
- Apply practices to emergency response, i.e., evacuation
- Develop a Bariatric program

Acknowledgements

Alice Avolio, MS, RN, NE-BC
Michelle Rhoney, MS, RN, CNL, CMSRN
Kim Kirkpatrick, MS, RN, CNL
Jamie Connelly, MS, RN, CNL, CMSRN
Nancy Haller, MN, RN, CNL
Stephen Weinberg, MN, RN, CNS
Diana Pope, PhD, MS, RN
Christine Locke, DNP, CNS, CNOR
Lynn Kitagawa, Medical Illustrator
Patty Taylor-Young, PhD, RN FNP-BC

This material is the result of work supported with resources and the use of facilities at Portland VA Medical Center







- Leadership - -

- Part-time Program Coordinator
- National Directive released in June 2010
- Part-time Program Educator in addition to part-time Program Coordinator
- Interdisciplinary Sub-Committee meeting monthly
- Injury response established
- Participate in National Program annual conference and monthly conference calls
- Part-time Program Educator becomes full-time Program Coordinator
- Logo created
- Minimal Lift Policy written
- SharePoint site developed

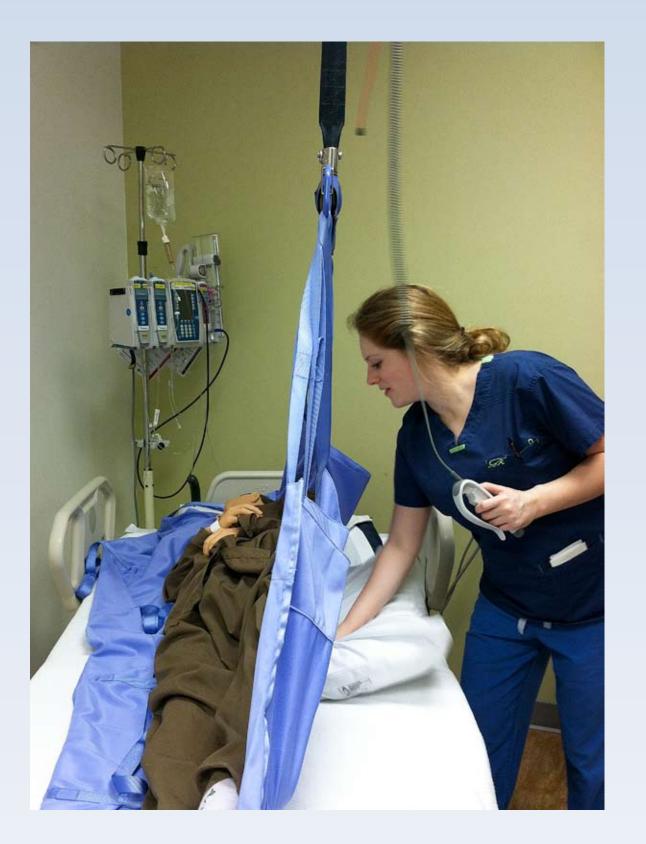
Equipment

- Ceiling lift coverage in 10% of patient care areas
- Funds released for basic equipment purchase

- Equipment selected and purchased
- 183 ceiling lifts installed
- Sling storage system initiated
- Integration of supply distribution and cleaning systems

Ceiling lifts incorporated into all new construction and remodels

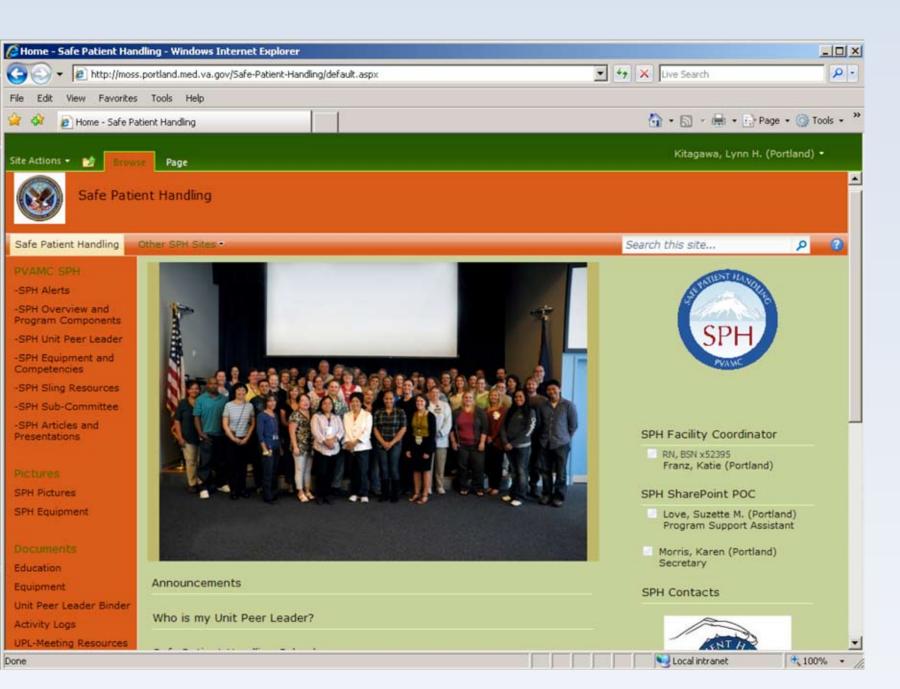
 Safe Patient Handling Program presented during nursing orientation week



- 52 Unit-level Peer Leaders selected and trained at 1st Annual PVAMC SPH Unit Peer Leader Retreat
- Equipment competencies developed
- Program Educator and Unit Peer Leaders provide staff education & training



- Ongoing equipment training
- Quarterly Unit Peer Leader Meetings
- Unit Peer Leader of the Month Program initiated
- Two Unit Peer Leaders attend first National Unit Peer Leader Conference
- 2nd Annual PVAMC SPH Unit Peer Leader Retreat held



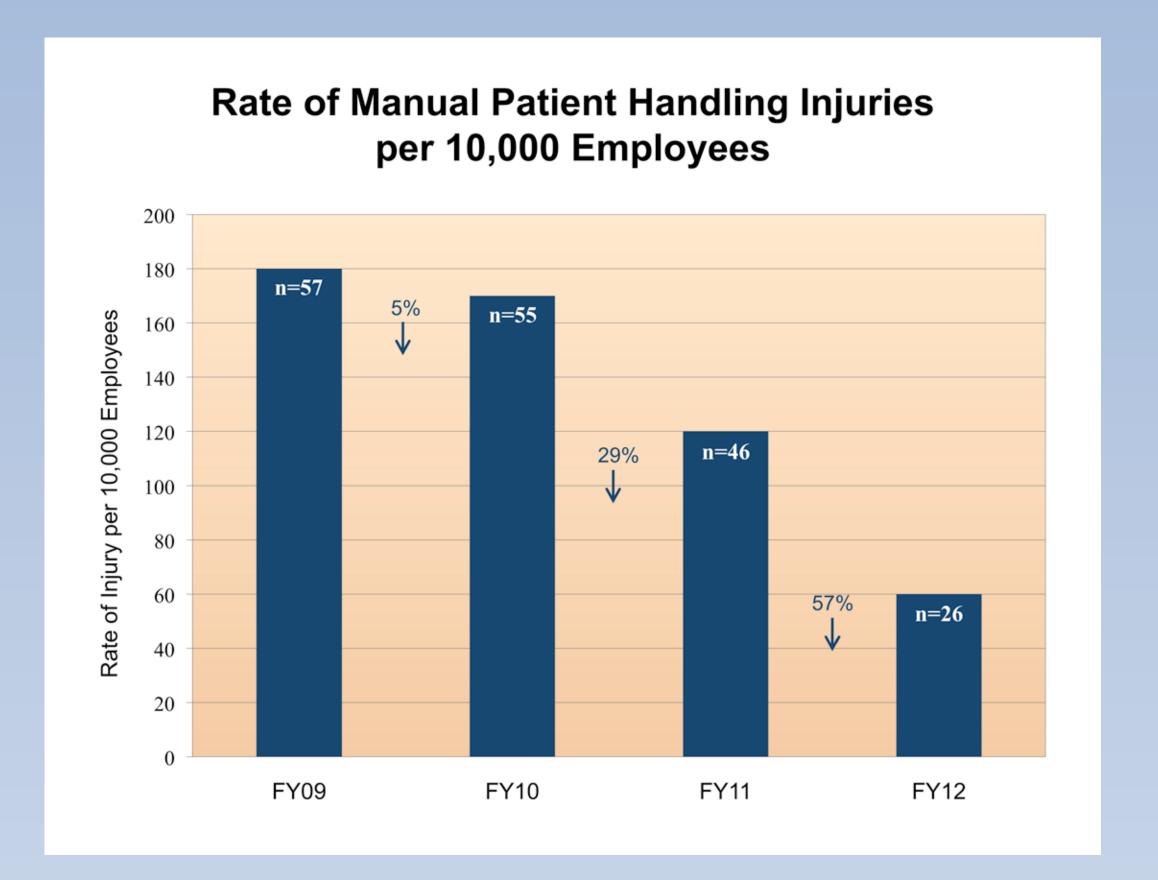
- Results

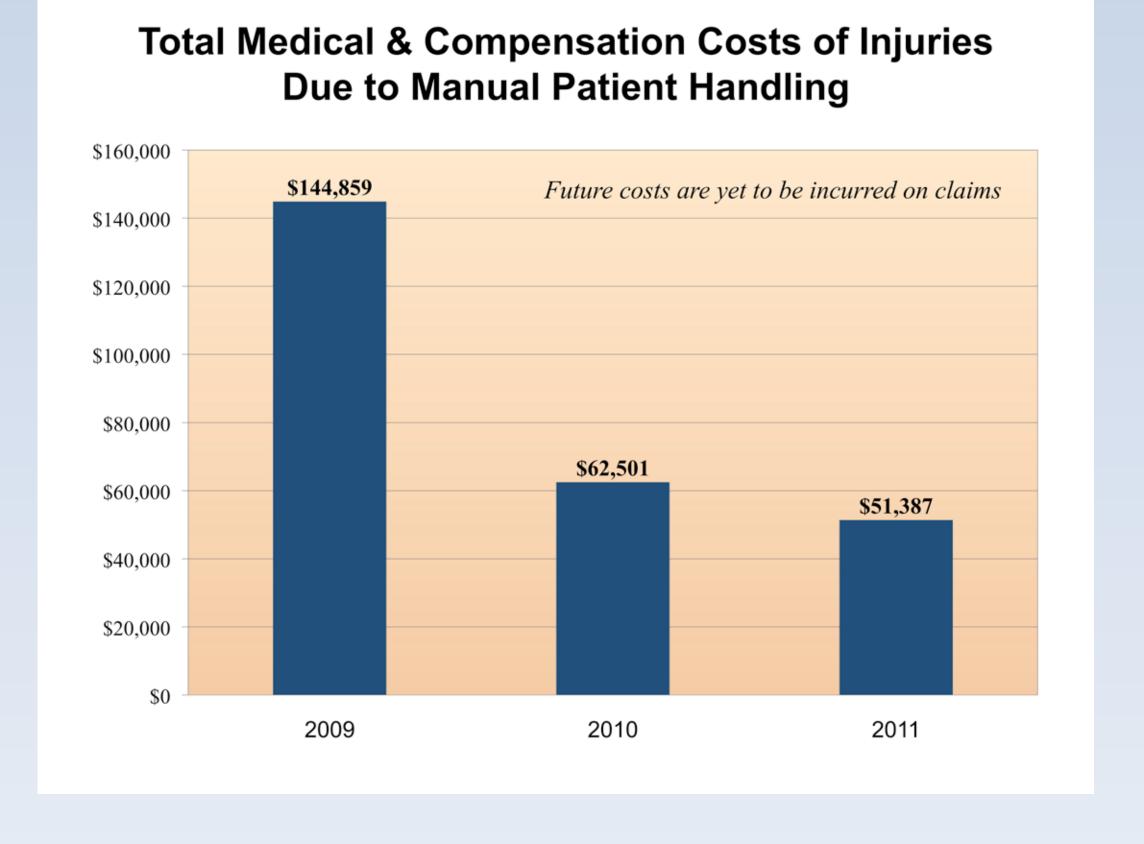
Rate of Injuries

• The rate of staff injuries due to manual patient handling decreased 67% from FY09 to FY12

Costs of Injuries

• From FY09 to FY11, total medical and compensation costs decreased 64% (from \$144,859 to \$51,387)





Contact Information Katie Franz, BSN, RN PVAMC Safe Patient Handling Coordinator Katie.Franz@va.gov