**Sample safe-patient-handling hazard assessment**

***Type of facility or unit***

Describe the type of care provided at the facility or on the specific unit.

Example:

* Acute care – hospital, critical access hospital, outpatient surgical center, clinic, specialty facility (such as children, orthopedic, trauma, university medical center, urgent care) or specific unit within a hospital (such as radiology, emergency, operating room, ICU, bariatric, rehabilitation, home care, orthopedic, neurological).

***Patient population***

Describe the make-up of the patients at the facility.

Example:

* Patient dependency needs range from independent to dependent.

***Physical environment of the patient care areas***

Explain the basic structure of the facility and patient care areas. Include description of known problem areas.

Examples:

* Specialty departments include ED, radiology and rehabilitation radiology, emergency, operating room, ICU, bariatric, rehabilitation, home care, orthopedic, neurological, etc.
* Patient bathrooms do not have adequate space to accommodate a floor lift, sit-to-stand or more than one staff member plus a patient.

***Task description − patient-handling task***

Identify the specific tasks involved during patient care, such as:

* lateral transfer of patient;
* transferring patient to chair or commode;
* bed repositioning;
* walking with patient;
* lifting a patient up from the floor;
* weighing a patient; or
* assisting a patient to/from a vehicle.

***Hazard description −******areas of highest risk for lifting injuries***

Identify the types of risk factors with the associated care activities and areas where injury potential exists. Patient-specific and task-specific assessments will likely be necessary to identify all potential injury risk factors.

Examples:

* Acuity level can change several times during the stay (even hourly). As a result, mobility needs can change frequently, even within an eight-hour shift. A quick, reliable means of assessing patient mobility is necessary.
* ICU – patients are completely dependent and need to be moved frequently.
* OR – lateral transfers and suspension of limbs are necessary.

***Hazard controls*** *−* ***solutions for the problem***

Identify what control measures will be used to limit the manual lifting and moving of patients.

Examples:

* Quick, reliable means of assessing patient mobility has been instituted.
* One hundred perecent ceiling track coverage of ICU for transferring and repositioning.
* Lateral transfer devices and friction-reducing devices are used in the ED as needed to reduce loads associated with lateral transfers upon receiving a patient.