

CCM e-News Brief

Vol. 10, No.12, December 1, 2014

[Compliments of Charlotte Bishop, President, Creative Case Management, Inc.]

Wash Your Hands. Hospital workers who deal directly with patients wash their hands less frequently as their workday progresses, probably because the demands of the job deplete the mental reserves they need to follow rules, according to new research published by the American Psychological Association. Researchers led by Hengchen Dai, a PhD candidate at the University of Pennsylvania, looked at three years of hand-washing data from 4,157 caregivers in 35 U.S. hospitals. They found that “hand-washing compliance rates” dropped by an average of 8.7 percentage points from the beginning to the end of a typical 12-hour shift. The decline in compliance was magnified by increased work intensity. “Just as the repeated exercise of muscles leads to physical fatigue, repeated use of executive resources (cognitive resources that allow people to control their behaviors, desires and emotions) produces a decline in an individual’s self-regulatory capacity,” the researchers wrote. More time off between shifts appeared to restore workers’ executive resources — they followed hand-washing protocol more carefully after longer breaks. Hand-washing in hospitals has been demonstrated to reduce infections and save money. In a 2000 study of Swiss hospitals, researchers found that a 1 percentage point increase in hand-washing compliance reduced the number of infections by 3.9 per 1,000 patients. Another study, in 2009, estimated that the cost per patient with a health care-acquired infection is \$20,549. Using these data, Dai and her colleagues extrapolated their findings to all 5,723 registered hospitals in the United States and estimated that there would be an additional 600,000 infections per year at a cost of approximately \$12.5 billion annually.

<http://www.workerscompensation.com/compnewsnetwork/news/20158-hospital-workers-wash-hands-less-frequently-toward-end-of-shift-study-finds.html>

WC \$\$ Saved in Illinois. The administration of Governor Pat Quinn, the Illinois Workers’ Compensation Commission and the Department of Insurance (DOI) announced that a national study has provided additional evidence that Illinois’ historic workers’ compensation reforms are delivering major savings for businesses across the state. The biennial report by the Oregon Department of Consumer and Business Services shows Illinois recorded the sharpest reductions in workers’ compensation insurance premiums in the nation over the last two years. “Illinois’ economy is making a comeback, and the historic workers’ compensation reforms we enacted in 2011 are a key part of it,” Governor Quinn said. “This new study shows once again that these critical reforms are making Illinois a national leader in reducing workers’ compensation costs.”

<http://www.workerscompensation.com/compnewsnetwork/news/19998-study-finds-illinois-leads-the-nation-in-workers%E2%80%99-comp-insurance-savings.html>

Ebola. The American Federation of Government Employees is calling on the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention to issue guidelines to protect public safety and law enforcement workers who are most likely to come in contact with people infected with Ebola. “CDC’s guidelines for the use of personal protective equipment by hospital workers were a crucial first step. But if we are truly going to stop the spread of this and other devastating communicable diseases, guidelines must be created and implemented for all public sector employees who are at risk of exposure due to their repeated and close contact with the general public,” AFGE National President J. David Cox Sr. said. Source:

<http://www.workerscompensation.com/compnewsnetwork/news/20033-afge-requests-cdc-guidance-to-protect-all-public-safety-workers-from-ebola.html>

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