

Special Interest Articles:

- ~ Online training
Page 1 & 2.
- ~ Poor lifting & ulcers
Page 3.
- ~ UK Soldiers
Praise
Birmingham
nursing skills
Page 3.
- ~ New equipment
for Theatre Staff
Page 4.
- ~ Welsh
Improvement
Notices
Page 5.
- ~ USA Congress
debates moving
& handling
equipment safety
Page 5.
- ~ Classified Ads
Page 6.
- ~ Irish HAS
warning
Page 7.
- ~ National Back
Exchange
Page 7.
- ~ Sheffield Council
Slammed
Page 8.

*Training & Learning for Care
(0191) 5184488*



Welcome

The purpose of this newsletter is to provide specialised information to moving & handling instructors. We will endeavor to bring to you information regarding new products and services found in the market place.

In this issue, which is the third, we have reports from the world of moving and handling. Our key story is relating to the benefits of online moving

and handling training. On page 3 we have a report regarding poor lifting and the connection with ulcers. Also on Page 3 an acknowledgement from the armed forces regarding the quality of our nursing staff. Page 4 may be of interest to all you theatre nurses who have held a limb in the air for some time.

Page 5 seems like a bit of a negative story for the welsh, but their response

to the improvement notices are commendable. Also on page 5 a report from the Americans playing catch-up with us, while page 7 has the Irish giving out warnings. This issues back page slams Sheffield council and also has a mention of the 40th anniversary of **Backcare** of which TLC is a corporate associate.

Gavin Wright
TLC Managing Director

Online training for care/nursing staff – is it possible?

You cannot do moving and handling training on-line. The quality of class room training cannot be there and so standards will be compromised. It is a practical skill and so ends the story.

That is the usual argument whenever online patient handling training is suggested. But is this a narrow viewpoint? Are the proponents of such arguments missing the point? Consider this.

You have 96 individuals to train. If you limit your class size to 8 individuals.

Assuming you carry out the theory session in the morning & the practical in the afternoon, this will take you 12 days to complete.

As you all know, it is more than just your 12 days. It is the complaints of another day wasted by the staff who refuse to see the benefits of refresher training with the usual cries of "I did this last year". It is also the dept. heads not wishing to let their staff go for a whole day.

What if, though, the same staff could carry

out the theory on-line before even coming to the practical training? If the staff could in the privacy of their own home, or in the library, at their own pace, study the theory component. This would mean that if there was an element they didn't grasp first time round, they could analyse it without wasting class time and without feeling embarrassed about letting the tutor know in front of everyone.

Continued overleaf...

Online training cont..



“the quality of training, rather than being compromised, will in fact be advanced.”

“At their own pace”. In a classroom you are limited to the amount of time you can spend on any subject. In any one class you could have someone who knows all the theory and could rattle through it but they cannot, because you have to assume that there are some who have forgotten or don't know certain important facts. Then there is the other end of the scale where someone may need to be told several times before it sinks in. At their own pace means just what it says on the tin. The likelihood of boredom setting in is vastly reduced.

Lets get back to these 96 people. Now you could invite them in for just their half day practical assessment. Your 12 days has now become 6. What will you do with the remaining 6 days? You could of course choose to

work a half week but perhaps a better answer would be to use the time for one-to-one sessions with the individuals who need it or request it. Perhaps you could spend the time developing the key workers from the various units/wards. Maybe the time could be spent ensuring all staff are up to date. Whatever it is used for, providing you use it wisely, the quality of training, rather than being compromised, will in fact be advanced.

What if someone scans the certificate and pretends they have completed the theory training to enable them to get the practical out of the way? They cannot. You as the tutor will receive regular reports of all who have completed the training. This can be checked against your list prior to booking them onto the practical

component.

What about the management of the online system? Don't worry. All of the certification, reporting, marking of tests etc will be done by TLC world-wide Ltd.

This must cost a fortune, my employers would rather I did the 12 days training? Don't bet. Your employers want effective training for their money. This system will give greater efficiency by freeing up your time to conduct follow up assessments in the workplace etc. The cost is a just £10 per person. If they work a 37½ hour week, and do this annually, that is just about ½ pence per hour on their wage. But of course, it would actually come out of the training budget.

How about a free trial?

If you are a moving and handling coordinator, then give Gavin a call to arrange a free trial.

Nurses say poor lifting technique can cause pressure ulcers

Poor lifting technique can mean patients develop potentially dangerous pressure ulcers, a report has suggested.

Writing on the nurse.com website, nurse Wendy Bonifazi said that a team from a hospital in the US had managed to reduce the number of heel pressure ulcers patients developed through a combination of better techniques and increased vigilance.

Nurse Charlotte Pope explained to the site that hospital-acquired pressure ulcers cause a significant number of deaths every year and added that they can prove

to be very hard to treat if not identified early.

The medical professional explained that the ulcers were developed very easily, making the right lifting and carrying techniques vital.

"They can also develop from light pressure for a short time or hard pressure for a short time," Ms Pope explained.

"It can be laser eye surgery or the deep tissue trauma from ambulance rides. If the area is dead, it can't recover on its own, and they're often neuropathic, so patients can't feel them."

Another nurse, Tina Meyers, explained to the site that poor lifting technique could cause internal dermal damage from friction and shearing.

She said: "If one person tries to pull a 200-pound patient across the bed, the force keeps the skin on the mattress, so the epidermis disconnects from the dermis."



"If one person tries to pull a 200-pound patient across the bed, the force keeps the skin on the mattress, so the epidermis disconnects from the dermis."

UK soldiers praise Birmingham nurses skills

UK soldiers have come out in support of the quality of care they have received from nurses at the Selly Oak Hospital.

The local Birmingham Post reported that military personnel were being treated army medics and civilian staff at the ward in the hospital.

Injured soldiers are being treated on wards that also house civilian patients and the standard of care provided to all has attracted praise.

Lieutenant Colonel David Richmond told that paper

that the nurses in hospital had shown that they had received excellent training.

He explained: "My treatment here has been great, I have been looked after very well. There should be a full recovery in due course.

"The care from all the staff here has been fantastic, without any doubt. We are all treated by a complete mixture of doctors and nurses, military and civilian.

"I think we've got this right and it is time people

acknowledged that. I have wanted for nothing, the care here has been absolutely fantastic. I have no complaints about it at all."

Royal Marine Peter Dunning lost both legs in a roadside bombing in Helmand province in Afghanistan. He said to the paper that nurses at the hospital were experts at safely lifting and carrying him.

"The care which I have been getting here is fantastic," Mr Dunning added. "The nurses are there every step of the way. It has been

absolutely top notch."



University pioneers new leg support system for theatre staff



"Our studies show that the use of a mechanical device to lift and support the leg significantly lowers the amount of 'work done' by the muscles in the lower back and thereby significantly reduces risks."

Staff from the University of Bradford have revealed that they have developed a new device that could reduce risks for hospital workers.

The team from the university's School of Health Studies reported that its new powered leg suspension system had the potential to reduce the risk of back injuries associated with manually lifting a leg in operating theatres and hospital wards.

According to the team, the system mechanically lifts and supports the patient's leg. This means medical professionals can safely carry out a variety of clinical

procedures without worrying about muscle strain from repeatedly lifting the leg manually.

Sue Barton, creator of the leg support system, explained: "Our studies show that the use of a mechanical device to lift and support the leg significantly lowers the amount of 'work done' by the muscles in the lower back and thereby significantly reduces risks.

"We invented this system not only to improve the working practice of health professionals involved in lifting and supporting a leg, but to allow the patient's leg to be held in a

position of comfort - thereby delivering improved patient care."

The system uses two types of sling, tailored to the particular patient and injuries. One sling, a disposable product with high strength, is designed to ensure good patient comfort and offer support "either the thigh or the heel for specific applications such as plaster room or in theatre".

The second is to be used to "provide full support along both the thigh and calf".

Smartlift

We are dedicated to providing solutions to moving and handling in the workplace. Our solutions remove the need for manual effort from moving and handling.

For several years we have researched and developed fully automated, highly controllable mobile lifting equipment to meet workplace needs.

Our equipment is designed from free thinking experts and is certified to CE Standards to meet your needs.

If you would like to enquire about our products, please visit our web site at www.smartlift.eu or email us at enquiries@smartlift.eu or call 0845 119 9091.



HSE finds Welsh nursing homes failing to use bedrails effectively

The Health and Safety Executive (HSE) has said that some nursing homes in Wales are failing to ensure patients were protected from falling out of their beds.

Inspectors from the HSE visited 28 homes across Wales as part of the safety drive. In three quarters of the facilities inspected, officials were forced to issue at least one enforcement notice.

As well as noting that many facilities were failing to manage legionella risk effectively, the HSE said that the correct

use of bedrails was a recurring area of concern.

The HSE said that it would be writing to all nursing homes in Wales as a result of the study to remind them of their duties to manage health and safety and to encourage them to send staff on training courses.

HSE inspector Steve Scott, who led the initiative, commented: "The sample is a small percentage of the total number of nursing homes in Wales, and we must

stress that not every nursing home we visited was issued with an enforcement notice.

"Those who did receive an enforcement notice were extremely keen to address shortcomings when they were raised.

Mr Scott added that the inspections had found that the management of other risks - including slips and trips and manual handling - was generally excellent.



"Those who did receive an enforcement notice were extremely keen to address shortcomings when they were raised"

US lawmakers look to make medical equipment manufacturers liable for product faults

Lawmakers in the US have begun a process which could have major implications for the manufacture and development of new medical moving and handling equipment.

Democratic representatives introduced a new bill which would reverse a US Supreme Court decision earlier this year relating to medical devices.

The decision in February stated that approval from the

Food and Drug Administration (FDA) meant that the makers of medical equipment were no longer liable for lawsuits if the equipment malfunctions.

Representative Frank Pallone explained that the decision put patients in a position where they would be denied any "legal recourse and gave medical device makers blanket immunity for the life of a product".

He added: "Congress should pass this

legislation so that we can protect patients from dangerous and defective medical devices."

Another representative, Henry Waxman, added: "If manufacturers face no liability, all the financial incentives will point them in the wrong direction: away from ensuring the safety of their medical devices. We must act quickly to address this dangerous situation."



"Congress should pass this legislation so that we can protect patients from dangerous and defective medical devices."

To advertise in this newsletter



TLC News & Views has a very small readership at the moment. However, all the subscribers are moving and handling instructors/coordinators from their various establishments in either the NHS or private care homes etc.

To advertise in this newsletter please contact Gavin on (0191) 5184488 or e-mail him at gavin@tlcworld-wide.com

Advertising Rates:-

½ page £10 + vat.
full page £20 + vat.

Of course, you may send us your news releases and if they are chosen to be inserted in the next issue, then you will obviously be getting free advertising.

Classified ads section:-

You can advertise in the classified ads section for £1:50 + vat per ad. With a maximum of 60 words. One small picture can be added for an additional £3 + vat.

Classified ads.

The following equipment is for sale and has been used only once for a training session. If you are interested in any of it please contact Mornette Dube at almonie@hotmail.com or call 07834379471

	Catalogue price	Sale price
1 Locomotor Escort 160 Hoist	£895.00	£671.25
2 Battery	£45.00	£33.75
3 Locomotor universal sling	£49.95	£37.46
4 Locomotor long slide sheet	£22.95	£17.21
5 Locomotor maxi handling belt	£25.95	£19.46
6 Locomotor turntable 300mm	£21.95	£16.46
7 Ultra transfer slide (with handles)	£24.95	£18.71
8 Brad BLS manikin	£150.00	£112.50
	£1,235.75	£926.81



Ex demo and cancelled order stock for sale. Beds & chairs at up to 80% off original price. Eg. Chair reduced from £2095 to £399. Brand new profiling bed (cancelled order) reduced from £1250 to £499.

Visit www.theraposture.co.uk/ for more details or call 0800 834654.



Irish HSA warns of occupational illness

Company directors need to understand that occupational illness is just as serious an issue for their business as workplace injury, figures show.

Statistics released by Ireland's Health and Safety Authority show "clearly" that illness, rather than injury, causes more days' absence from work.

The figures, published as part of the HSA's annual report for 2007, show that the number of days lost to work-related injury and illness has been increasing steadily since 2003.

The HSA's chief executive Martin O'Halloran said

that it is important that employers and employees do not focus solely on occupational injuries.

"Illness as a result of work activity is just as serious as having a physical injury," he said.

Launching the report this week, Ireland's Minister for Labour Affairs, Billy Kelleher T.D., said that it has clearly been shown that investments in worker health and safety will save money in the long term.

"Not only is there a legal and ethical duty to protect workers, the financial case is also strong," he said.

The HSA's figures show that in Ireland the number of work-related deaths in 2007 was 67, compared to 51 in 2006 and 74 in 2005. The agriculture sector had the highest fatality rate at 8.3 fatalities per 100,000 workers.

Manual handling, meanwhile, continues to trigger approximately one-third of all reported incidents in Ireland, with "slip, trip and fall" incidents the next most common. Together they accounted for over 50% of all reported accidents in 2007.

The figures are available at <http://www.hsa.ie/>

Reported by www.hi-mag.com



"Manual handling, meanwhile, continues to trigger approximately one-third of all reported incidents in Ireland"

National Back Exchange

We look forward to welcoming you to the 2008 National Back Exchange Annual Conference and Exhibition at the Hinckley Island Hotel in Hinckley. I can promise you an exciting and varied programme, where you will deepen your professional experience and stretch your knowledge. I am delighted that the conference programme is also highlighting the diverse ways back care advisors can expand their professional career

options, and explore new opportunities that are now emerging. Our website will give you the latest information on the conference, and you can find out about the latest exhibitor workshops and exhibitors. Learn more about the plenary and streamed session speakers. Don't forget to bookmark this site, so you can return to find the most up-to-date conference and exhibition news.

This is a once a year

showcase for your profession. Please do come . we feel sure you will be rejuvenated from experiencing conference, meeting many companies as well as like-minded back care advisors representing our profession.

I look forward to meeting you in October.

May Butcher,

*National Back Exchange
Conference Coordinator*



*The shape of safer
practice – NBE
conference 2008*

To join the NBE visit
www.nationalbackexchange.org

Council slammed for not helping disabled man to adapt his home



"The service the council provided... far short of that envisaged in the government's advisory Good Practice Guidance... and was maladministration causing Mr N injustice"

A local council has been criticised for its failure to adapt a disabled man's home in such a way that would have made it easier for him to be cared for.

The local government ombudsman, Anne Seex, published a report which slammed how Sheffield City Council had failed to provide acceptable services for a man known only as Mr N after he was paralysed from the chest down following an accident.

Prior to his discharge from the specialist NHS Spinal Injuries Unit where he was initially treated,

an NHS occupational therapist contacted the council to make the arrangements needed for him at home.

However, the council failed to act promptly, meaning that Mr N spent around 14 weeks at home without access to washing facilities or a toilet. The home also lacked the necessary moving and handling equipment for carers and family members to help the man adequately.

Eventually, Mr N was forced to borrow £10,000 from family and friends and instructed builders to

carry out the work themselves.

Ms Seex concluded her report: "The service the council provided to Mr N fell far short of that envisaged in the government's advisory Good Practice Guidance on Delivering Adaptations to Disabled People and was maladministration causing Mr N injustice."

Since receiving a draft of this report, the council has apologised to the disabled man, repaid him the £14,340 he spent funding adaptive work and offered £2,000 of compensation.

BackCare The Charity for Healthier Backs

BackCare is the only UK charity dedicated to managing and preventing back pain. BackCare's work over the last 40 years includes the direct provision of support and resources through our helpline, website www.backcare.org.uk, publications, factsheets, magazine; funding research and campaigning. BackCare is the publisher of the manual handling "**bible**", *the Guide to the Handling of People*, now in its 5th edition.

BackCare works in partnership with organisations in various ways.

Organisations may wish to become corporate

partners or sponsors, eg sponsoring a publication or event; encouraging employees to fundraise for us, run the London marathon or name us as their Charity of the year; or funding a specific area of our work.

The other way an organisation can work with us is by becoming a corporate associate.

Corporate Associates can be companies, NHS Trusts, nursing homes, government and local government bodies with an interest in addressing back problems in the workplace. The benefits of becoming a BackCare Corporate Associate include:

Website listing including web link, company information and logo

"New Corporate Associates" listing with logo and text, in the next edition of *Talkback*

10% discount on all orders and advertising

BackCare copyright materials for training purposes at discounted rates

Use of the BackCare Corporate Associate Logo

Multiple copies of our quarterly magazine *Talkback* to keep you up-to-date with the latest on back care issues

For more information, please contact

Sue Phillips,
Membership &
Supporter Manager,
email
sue@backcare.org.uk or
telephone 020 8977
5474