Development and evaluation of risk assessment and interventions promoting safe patient manual handling in the Swedish healthcare sector – Strategies to prevent Musculoskeletal Disorders

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Investigations of patients, analyzing work exposure and occupational injuries

Collaboration for improvement of the work environment, promoting Occupational Safety and Health

Teaching and research projects
Patient and Workers Safety study (PAWSS)

- The overall goal with the research project PAWSS is to promote health and safety in the healthcare environment for both caregivers and patients.

- Our main focus now is the development process of a strategy that will be used to promote safe patient manual handling in healthcare and care homes.
Collaboration

• A multiprofessional research team
• Collaborate with relevant partners outside the research community
• Stakeholders are involved in a reference group; union, employers, HR strategist, The Swedish Work environment authorities, The Swedish Association of Local Authorities and Regions
• Research funding during 2021-2023 by AFA försäkring
Research on injuries in healthcare

- Patient and healthcare workers incidents, injuries and situations at the workplace were they occurred during 4 years (Wåhlin et al. 2020).


- Patient manual handling /patient transfers, is a situations where risk and injuries occurs, especially musculoskeletal disorders among caregivers
A systematic review

- A systematic review on work interventions with the aim to promote safe patient manual handling in healthcare and social care
- Published between 1997-2018
- 10 randomized controlled trials + 19 cohort studies with a control group
- With variety of health related outcomes
- A swedish report published by Swedish Work Environment Authority, 2019
To promote safe patient manual handling

• Give healthcare workers access to suitable work equipment and
• Train them to use work equipment
• Train peer coaches in safe patient manual handling
• Appoint work groups and peer coaches with responsibility for safe patient manual handling.
• Develop a plan for implementation with a participatory approach, involving management engagement and collaboration with workers.
The development process of a strategy promoting safe patient manual handling

We are taking in consideration that:

• In Swedish healthcare setting, there is a lack of higher quality research focusing on methods for risk assessments and interventions promoting safe patient manual handling => research is needed

• Risk assessments are not being used systematically even though it is essential for successful prevention
Intervention strategy

Based on research and in collaboration with stakeholders

E-learning and, manual handling training

Education

Guideline Safe patient manual handling

Risk assessment patient mobility and health

Falls

Work equipment

The Swedish context

Systematic work environment

Regulations legislation policies
Implementation

- The intervention strategy will be implemented in hospital wards in care homes, in south east of Sweden
- All participating units will get feedback from a work environment evaluation using Structured Multidisciplinary Work Evaluation Tool
- Our studies will evaluate perceived usefulness of the strategy for safe patient manual handling, adherence to using the strategy
- Quantitative and qualitative methods
Reserach team 2021-2023

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