

1 A bill to be entitled
 2 An act relating to patient lifting and handling practices;
 3 creating s. 381.029, F.S.; providing a definition;
 4 requiring hospitals to establish a policy concerning the
 5 lifting and handling of patients by hospital employees;
 6 establishing a committee to develop the policy; providing
 7 for membership of the committee; requiring continuing
 8 evaluation of the policy; providing an effective date.

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 10 Be It Enacted by the Legislature of the State of Florida:

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 12 Section 1. Section 381.029, Florida Statutes, is created
 13 to read:

14 381.029 Patient lifting and handling practices.--

15 (1) As used in this section, the term "hospital" means a
 16 health care facility licensed under chapter 395.

17 (2) A hospital shall establish an evidence-based policy
 18 regarding the safe lifting and associated handling of patients
 19 by hospital employees that minimizes the risk of injuries to
 20 patients and employees. The policy shall be developed by a
 21 committee composed of an appropriate mix of management and
 22 nonmanagement employees, at least half of whom are clinical
 23 employees engaged in direct patient care, including registered
 24 nurses engaged in direct patient care. The hospital may assign
 25 the task of developing the policy to a newly created committee
 26 or to an existing committee.

27 (3) The committee shall:

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28 (a) Use data to evaluate the risk of injury to patients
29 and employees.

30 (b) Determine the appropriateness of alternative
31 strategies for lifting and handling patients based on the
32 population of patients at the hospital and identified hospital-
33 specific risk factors. At a minimum, the committee shall
34 consider:

35 1. Using mechanical lifting devices or other engineering
36 controls that minimize the need to lift and handle the patient
37 manually.

38 2. Using teams to lift and handle patients.

39 3. Providing training in safe lifting and handling
40 practices for employees engaged in caring for patients.

41 4. Incorporating physical space and construction design
42 for mechanical lifting devices in architectural plans for
43 construction or renovation of the hospital.

44 (c) Develop an ongoing evaluation process to determine the
45 effectiveness of the policy established under this section.

46 Section 2. This act shall take effect October 1, 2008.