

# Occupational Hazards in Home Health Care



Health care is the second fastest growing sector of the U.S. economy, employing over 12 million workers. Women represent nearly 80% of the health care work force. Health care workers face a wide range of hazards on the job, including needle stick injuries, back injuries, latex allergy, violence, and stress. Although it is possible to prevent or reduce health care worker exposure to these hazards, health care workers actually are experiencing increasing numbers of occupational injuries and illnesses. Rates of occupational injury to health care workers have risen over the past decade.



**This tool addresses the following topics:**

- **Bloodborne Pathogens**
- **Ergonomics**
- **Dietary**
- **Laundry**
- **Electrical / Lighting**
- **Shower/Bath**
- **Violence**
- **Fire**
- **Slips / Trips / Falls**
- **Chemicals**

This tool is used to help develop a comprehensive health and safety program. Within this tool are links that will lead to resources which will require internet connectivity for you to view them. The Care West Team has captured key elements in which we believe are pertinent to developing a successful health and safety program.