



ABOUT THE RESEARCH

Dr. Soo-Jeong Lee, PhD, RN, is a Professor at the University of California, San Francisco (UCSF) and a core faculty member of the Northern California Center for Occupational and Environmental Health (COEH).

COEH is 1 of 18 Education and Research Centers (ERCs) funded by NIOSH. Along with research and outreach, **COEH trains healthcare providers in preventing and managing work-related illnesses** through programs at the UCSF in occupational nursing and medicine.

FOR MORE INFO



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KEEPING NURSES HEALTHY

THE ISSUE

- Each year, **30,000–38,000 nurses or nursing assistants are away from work due to work related musculoskeletal disorders**
- When nurses lift or reposition patients, it can lead to **serious injuries in the back, shoulder, neck or wrists** — causing pain or disability
- **Keeping nurses healthy and safe on the job is imperative to providing quality care to patients**

THE RESEARCH

- **National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health (NIOSH) supported research at the University of California, San Francisco (UCSF) School of Nursing** on the significant roles of policies and practices to promote safe patient handling and make hospital work environments safer for nurses so they can prevent injuries and stay on the job

WHAT HELPS IMPROVE NURSES' SAFETY?

- Dr. Soo-Jeong Lee's work found that **California's safe patient handling legislation reduced the risk of musculoskeletal injuries among healthcare workers**

WHAT PLAYS A ROLE IN IMPROVING NURSES' SAFETY?

Dr. Soo-Jeong Lee's research also showed that these factors play an important role in improving nurses' safety behaviors and preventing musculoskeletal injuries:

- **Organizational safety culture**
- **Availability of lift equipment** (particularly ceiling lifts)
- **Psychosocial factors** (such as job stress)

DISCOVER THE RESEARCH HERE:

- **Musculoskeletal symptoms in nurses in the early implementation phase of California's safe patient handling legislation; impact on injury prevention among nurses; impact**
- **Associations of organizational safety practices and culture**
- **Safe patient handling legislation & changes in programs, practices, and perceptions, and musculoskeletal disorders by hospital characteristics**
- **Safe patient handling legislation & musculoskeletal disorders among California healthcare workers**