

Hospital industry and High Reliability: Strategies in Preventing Caregiver Injuries

Rammohan V Maikala

Providence Regional Medical Center, Providence St. Joseph Health, Everett, WA 98201

Corresponding author's Email: Rammohan.maikala@providence.org

Author Note: Dr Rammohan Maikala is a Program Specialist, Injury Prevention and Ergonomics at Providence Regional Medical Center in Everett, Washington. Before his arrival to Providence in October 2014, Ram was a Research Scientist for 12.9 years at the Center for Physical Ergonomics, Liberty Mutual Research Institute for Safety in Hopkinton, Massachusetts. Ram is the current president of Puget Sound Human Factors and Ergonomics Society, and the past president of the International Society for Occupational Ergonomics & Safety. Ram has given numerous presentations to ergonomics, safety, and biomedical audience at both national and international conferences. He has a Doctoral degree in Rehabilitation Science from the University of Alberta, Edmonton, Canada; and Masters in Industrial Engineering with special emphasis on Ergonomics and Safety Engineering from West Virginia University, Morgantown, West Virginia, USA.

Abstract: Transforming the Hospital industry into a high reliability industry has been a work in progress all over the United States. This effort towards zero harm for all patients throughout their care will potentially result in safe and reliable care as well as sustain a culture of caregiver and patient safety. Using Slips, Trips and Falls in a regional medical center as an example, the author will introduce the process for the hazard recognition and a few mitigation strategies that were developed for preventing Slips, Trips and Falls-related injuries. The importance of applying high reliability principles to health care industry will be further emphasized in the presentation.

Keywords: Healthcare sector; High reliability; Slips, Trips, and Falls