Employee Safety Update
NIH Clinical Center
Occupational Injuries and Illness (OI) Among CC Employees
January - March 2017 N=23

Recordable OI Cases
- TRC
- OTC
- DAFW
- DJ TR
- DART

Types of OI Cases
- M/S Trauma
- Wounds
- Ergonomic
- Other

Total Recordable Cases 22
Other Recordable Cases 17
Days Away From Work 13
Days Job Transfer, Restriction 48
Days Away, Transfer, Restriction

*Muscular Skeletal Trauma
Initiatives for Managing Risk of Muscular Skeletal Trauma Cases Among Workers

- Data for 1st QTR 2017 similar to 2016 except for slightly fewer cases
- Standardizing the purchase of an industrial grade office chair that is less prone to rolling unexpectedly on hard flooring and is ergonomically sound
- Approved the replacement of soft rubber stair tread coverings associated with an employee fracture with a more substantial product
- Increased the frequency for reporting between CC Office Work Force Management and the NIH Occupational Medicine Service on ‘Days Away From Work’ cases to optimize efforts to get employees back to work after an occupational injury
- Rapid response to worker concerns and events communicated at daily huddles
Audit of Hospital Wheel Chair Program

- ~50% wheelchairs in the hospital inventory (n=163) are unaccounted for; therefore, hindering ready access for use

- Costs of repairs & parts for aged fleet are double the cost of replacement

- Tears in vinyl coverings compromised sanitation efforts

- Budget for service, parts and replacement needs to be clarified with leadership

- Scant maintenance specifications and instructions for use

- Refresher training on use and what is a fully operational and safe wheel chair can be improved
What are we doing now?

- Completed refresher training for messenger/escort and nurses
- With input from staff and patients, initiated a trial comparing two new wheelchair designs
- Implemented a phased-in approach to replace fleet
- Enhanced processes to identify defects, reduce time for repairs, and retrieve chairs left in remote locations, e.g., garage