

## Step 1: OSHA Requirements That Apply to Many Health Care Employers

The following are some of the key OSHA standards that apply to many health care employers:

- Hazard Communication Standard.** This standard is designed to ensure that employers and employees know about hazardous chemicals in the workplace and how to protect themselves. Employers with employees who may be exposed to hazardous chemicals in the workplace must prepare and implement a written Hazard Communication Program and comply with other requirements of the standard.
  - Read a fact sheet on the 2012 revisions to the Hazard Communication Standard. [OSHA Fact Sheet: Hazard Communication Standard Final Rule](#)
  - See a sample program. [Model Plans and Programs for the OSHA Bloodborne Pathogens and Hazard Communications Standards](#). OSHA Publication 3186 (2003). Also available as a 520 KB [PDF](#). [[Disclaimer](#)]
  - Read the standards.
    - [29 CFR 1910.1200](#)
    - [OSHA Safety and Health Topics Page: Hazard Communication - OSHA Standards](#)
  - Learn more.
    - [OSHA Safety and Health Topics Page: Hazard Communication](#)
    - [OSHA Safety and Health Topics Page: Hazardous Drugs](#)
- Bloodborne Pathogens Standard.** OSHA issued this standard to protect employees from the health hazards of exposure to bloodborne pathogens. Employers are subject to OSHA's Bloodborne Pathogens standard if they have employees whose jobs put them at reasonable risk of coming into contact with blood or other potentially infectious materials. Employers subject to this standard must develop a written exposure control plan, provide training to exposed employees, and comply with other requirements of the standard.
  - Review [OSHA's Quick Reference Guide to the Bloodborne Pathogens Standard](#).
  - Review [OSHA publications](#).
  - See a sample program. [Model Plans and Programs for the OSHA Bloodborne Pathogens and Hazard Communications Standards](#). OSHA Publication 3186 (2003). Also available as a 520 KB [PDF](#). [[Disclaimer](#)]
  - Review Safety and Health Information Bulletins and other guidance:
    - [FDA, NIOSH and OSHA Joint Safety Communication on Blunt-Tip Surgical Suture Needles](#) (May 2012)
    - [Use of Blunt-Tip Suture Needles to Decrease Percutaneous Injuries to Surgical Personnel](#) (2007, November). ([Spanish Version](#))
    - [Disposal of Contaminated Needles and Blood Tube Holders Used for Phlebotomy](#) (2003, October 15). Also available as a 37 KB [PDF](#).
    - [Potential for Occupational Exposure to Bloodborne Pathogens From Cleaning Needles Used in Allergy Testing Procedures](#). (1995, September 21).
    - [Sharps Disposal Containers with Needle Removal Features](#) (1993, March 12).
  - Read the standards.
    - [29 CFR 1910.1030](#)
    - [OSHA Safety and Health Topics Page: Bloodborne Pathogens and Needlestick Prevention - OSHA Standards](#)
  - Review OSHA's standard interpretation letters. [OSHA's standard interpretations for 29 CFR 1910.1030](#)
  - Learn more.
    - [OSHA Safety and Health Topics Page: Bloodborne Pathogens and Needlestick Prevention](#)
    - [OSHA eTool: Hospital - Bloodborne Pathogens](#)
- Ionizing Radiation Standard.** This standard applies to facilities that have an x-ray machine. It requires affected employers to conduct a survey of the types of radiation used in the facility, including x-rays, to designate restricted areas to limit employee exposure, and to require employees working in designated areas to wear personal radiation monitors. In addition, radiation areas and equipment must be labeled and equipped with caution signs.

- Read the standards.
    - [29 CFR 1910.1096](#)
    - [OSHA Safety and Health Topics Page: Ionizing Radiation - Standards](#)
  - Learn more
    - [OSHA Safety and Health Topics Page: Ionizing Radiation](#)
    - [OSHA eTool: Hospital - Radiation Exposure](#)
- 4. **Exit Routes Standards.** All employers must comply with OSHA's requirements for exit routes in the workplace.
  - Read a fact sheet. OSHA Fact Sheet: [Emergency Exit Routes](#) [PDF\* - 72 KB]
  - Read the standards. [29 CFR 1910.34](#), [29 CFR 1910.35](#), [29 CFR 1910.36](#), [29 CFR 1910.37](#)
- 5. **Electrical Standards.** Electrical hazards, such as wiring deficiencies, are one of the hazards most frequently cited by OSHA. OSHA's electrical standards include design requirements for electrical systems and safety-related work practices. If you use flammable gases, you may need special wiring and equipment installation.
  - Review an OSHA booklet. [Controlling Electrical Hazards](#). OSHA Publication 3075 (2002). Also available as a 352 KB [PDF](#).
  - Read the standards.
    - [29 CFR 1910 Subpart S](#)
    - [OSHA Safety and Health Topics Page: Electrical - Standards](#)
  - Learn more
    - [OSHA Safety and Health Topics Page: Electrical](#)
    - [OSHA eTool: Hospital - Electrical Hazards](#)
- 6. **Emergency Action Plan Standard.** OSHA recommends that all employers have an Emergency Action Plan. A plan is mandatory when required by an OSHA standard. An Emergency Action Plan describes the actions employees should take to ensure their safety in a fire or other emergency situation.
  - Does this apply to me? [OSHA eTool: Evacuation Plan and Procedures - Do I need an Emergency Action Plan?](#)
  - Read a fact sheet. [OSHA Fact Sheet: Planning and Responding to Workplace Emergencies](#) [PDF\* - 22 KB]
  - Review OSHA booklets.
    - [Principal Emergency Response and Preparedness - Requirements and Guidance](#). (OSHA Publication 3122). Also available as a 620 KB [PDF](#).
    - [How to Plan for Workplace Emergencies and Evacuations](#). OSHA Publication 3088 (2001). Also available as a 252 KB [PDF](#).
  - See a sample program. [Sample Emergency Action & Fire Prevention Plan](#), Illinois Consultation Program [[PDF](#) - 23 KB] [[Disclaimer](#)]
  - Create your own plan. [OSHA eTool: Evacuation Plan and Procedures - Introduction to the Emergency Action Plan Expert System](#)
  - Read the standards. [29 CFR 1910.38](#)
    - Other applicable standard: [29 CFR 1910.1047](#), Ethylene Oxide
  - Learn more. [OSHA eTool: Evacuation Plan and Procedures](#)
- 7. **Fire Safety Standard.** OSHA recommends that all employers have a Fire Prevention Plan. A plan is mandatory when required by an OSHA standard.
  - Read a fact sheet. OSHA Fact Sheet: [Fire Safety in the Workplace](#) [PDF\* - 55 KB]
  - Review plan requirements. [OSHA eTool: Evacuation Plans and Procedures - Fire Prevention Plan \(FPP\)](#)
  - See a sample program. [Sample Emergency Action & Fire Prevention Plan](#), Illinois Consultation Program [[PDF](#) - 23 KB] [[Disclaimer](#)]
  - Create your own plan. [OSHA Expert Advisor: Fire Safety Advisor](#)
  - Read the standards.
    - [29 CFR 1910.39](#)
    - [OSHA Safety and Health Topics Page: Fire Safety - Standards](#)
  - Learn more. [OSHA Safety and Health Topics Page: Fire Safety](#)
- 8. **Medical and First Aid Standard.** OSHA requires employers to provide medical and first-aid personnel and supplies commensurate with the hazards of the workplace. The details of a workplace

medical and first-aid program are dependent on the circumstances of each workplace and employer.

- Read the standards.
    - [29 CFR 1910.151](#)
    - [OSHA Safety and Health Topics Page: Medical and First Aid - OSHA Standards](#)
  - Review an OSHA booklet. [Best Practices Guide: Fundamentals of a Workplace First-Aid Program](#) [PDF\* - 164 KB]. OSHA Publication 3317 (2006)
  - Learn more. [OSHA Safety and Health Topics Page: Medical and First Aid](#)
9. **Personal Protective Equipment (PPE)**. Employers must perform an assessment of each operation in their workplace to determine if their employees are required to wear PPE. Note that engineering controls and work practices are the preferred methods for protecting employees - OSHA generally considers PPE to be the least desirable means of controlling employee exposure.
- Read a fact sheet. OSHA Fact Sheet: [Personal Protective Equipment](#) [PDF\* - 287 KB]
  - Watch videos:
    - [The Difference Between Respirators and Surgical Masks](#)
    - [Respiratory Protection for Healthcare Workers](#)
  - Review OSHA booklets.
    - [Personal Protective Equipment](#). OSHA Publication 3151 (2004). Also available as a 632 KB [PDF](#).
    - [Respiratory Protection](#). OSHA Publication 3079 (2002)
    - [Small Entity Compliance Guide for the Revised Respiratory Protection Standard](#), OSHA Publication 3384 (2011) [PDF\* - 6 MB].
  - Read the standards
    - [29 CFR 1910 Subpart I](#)
    - [OSHA Safety and Health Topics Page: Personal Protective Equipment \(PPE\) - OSHA Standards](#)
  - Learn more
    - [OSHA Safety and Health Topics Page: Personal Protective Equipment \(PPE\)](#)
    - [OSHA Safety and Health Topics Page: Respiratory Protection](#)

**This list is not comprehensive** - additional OSHA standards may apply to your workplace. Be sure to review OSHA's general industry standards ([29 CFR 1910](#)) for other requirements. In addition, section 5(a)(1) of the Occupational Safety and Health Act, known as the [General Duty Clause](#), requires employers to provide their employees with a workplace that is free of recognized hazards likely to cause death or serious physical harm.

- You may review and print FREE copies of OSHA's general industry standards from OSHA's Web site ([29 CFR 1910](#)).
- You may also order bound volumes of the standards from the Government Printing Office (GPO) at (866) 512-1800 or from [GPO's website](#). To get the complete set of general industry standards from GPO, you will need to order the following two volumes: (1) Title 29, Parts 1900 to 1910 (section 1910.1 to 1910.999) and (2) Title 29, Part 1910 (sections 1910.1000 to end).

**NOTE:** To find the OSHA standards that are most frequently cited by OSHA inspectors, visit [Frequently Cited OSHA Standards](#). On that Web page, you can find the most frequently cited federal or state OSHA standards based on your organization's Standard Industrial Classification (SIC) code and the number of employees in your establishment.

## Step 2: Other Hazards at Health Care Facilities

In addition to the hazards addressed in step 1, there are a number of other potential safety and health hazards at health care facilities. The following provides links to OSHA compliance assistance resources for some of these hazards.

1. **Ergonomic hazards.** Some of the major ergonomic stressors at health care facilities include lifting and repositioning patients and lifting materials.
  - Read OSHA guidelines. [Guidelines for Nursing Homes: Ergonomics for the Prevention of Musculoskeletal Disorders](#)
  - Read case studies on ergonomics at health care facilities.
    - [Countryside Care Nursing Home](#) (developed through the [OSHA and Abbott Alliance](#))
  - Read success stories on ergonomics at health care facilities.
    - [Borderview Rehabilitation and Living Center \(OSHA Safety and Health Recognition and Achievement Program Site\)](#)
    - [Citizens Memorial Healthcare \(OSHA Voluntary Protection Programs Participant\)](#)
    - [Heritage Enterprises, Inc.](#)
  - Learn more
    - [OSHA Hospital eTool - Ergonomics](#)
    - [OSHA Safety and Health Topics Page: Ergonomics](#)
2. **Workplace violence.** Health care workers face a significant risk of job-related violence. OSHA encourages employers to establish violence prevention programs and to track their progress in reducing work-related assaults.
  - Read a fact sheet. [Workplace Violence](#) [PDF\* - 362 KB]
  - Read OSHA guidelines. [Guidelines for Preventing Workplace Violence for Health Care and Social Service Workers](#). OSHA Publication 3148. Also available as a 624 KB [PDF](#).
  - Learn more
    - [OSHA Hospital eTool: Workplace Violence](#)
    - [OSHA Safety and Health Topics Page: Workplace Violence](#)
3. **Slips, Trips, and Falls.** Slips, trips, and falls are among the leading causes of injuries in health care facilities.
  - Learn more
    - [OSHA Hospital eTool: Slips/Trips/Falls](#)
    - [OSHA Safety and Health Topics Page: Walking/Working Surfaces](#)
4. **Influenza.**
  - Read an OSHA QuickCard: Protecting Yourself: [Avian Flu - Health Care Worker](#) [PDF\* - 28 KB]
  - Read fact sheets
    - [Seasonal Influenza Vaccination Fact Sheet - Important Protection for Healthcare Workers](#). Also available as a 989 KB [PDF](#).
    - [Healthcare Workplaces Classified as Very High or High Exposure Risk for Pandemic Influenza](#)
  - Review OSHA guidance
    - Guidance for Protecting Healthcare [Workers](#) from Seasonal Flu: Workers and [Employers](#)
    - [Pandemic Influenza Preparedness and Response Guidance for Healthcare Workers and Healthcare Employers](#). OSHA Publication 3328 (2007). Also available as a 405 KB [PDF](#).
    - [Guidance on Preparing Workplaces for an Influenza Pandemic](#). OSHA Publication 3327 (2007).
    - [Protecting Employees from Avian Flu](#). OSHA Publication 3323 (2006).
  - Learn more
    - [OSHA Safety and Health Topics Page: Seasonal Flu](#)
    - [OSHA Safety and Health Topics Page: Guidance for Protecting Employees Against Avian Flu](#)
    - [OSHA Safety and Health Topics Page: Pandemic Influenza](#)
    -

5. **Tuberculosis.**
  - See a sample exposure control plan. [OSHA Hospital eTool: Sample Tuberculosis Exposure Control Plan](#)
  - Learn more
    - [OSHA Hospital eTool: Tuberculosis](#)
    - [OSHA Safety and Health Topics Page: Tuberculosis](#)
6. **Emergency response hazards**
  - Review OSHA guidance
    - [Best Practices for Hospital-Based First Receivers of Victims from Mass Casualty Incidents Involving the Release of Hazardous Substances](#). OSHA Publication 3249 (2005). Also available as a 560 KB [PDF](#).
    - [Hospitals and Community Emergency Response - What You Need to Know](#) (OSHA Publication 3152) [[PDF\\*](#) - 350 KB] (2008)
  - Learn more. [OSHA Safety and Health Topics Page: Biological Agents](#)
7. **Chemical hazards.** Health care employees may be exposed to a variety of chemicals on the job. The following provides information on how to prevent or reduce exposure to some of these chemicals.
  - Transitioning to safer chemicals
    - Learn more. OSHA Web Page: [Transitioning to Safer Chemicals: A Toolkit for Employers and Workers](#)
  - Beryllium
    - Learn more. [OSHA Safety and Health Topics Page: Beryllium](#)
  - Ethylene oxide
    - Read a fact sheet. [Ethylene Oxide](#) [[PDF\\*](#) - 486 KB]
    - Read an OSHA booklets
      - [OSHA's Small Business Guide for Ethylene Oxide](#) [[PDF\\*](#) - 14 MB]. OSHA Publication 3359 (2009)
      - [Ethylene Oxide \(EtO\): Understanding OSHA's Exposure Monitoring Requirements](#). OSHA Publication 3325 (2007). Also available as a 184 KB [PDF](#).
    - Learn more. [OSHA Safety and Health Topics Page: Ethylene Oxide](#)
  - Formaldehyde
    - Read a fact sheet. [Formaldehyde](#) [[PDF\\*](#) - 43 KB]
    - Learn more. [OSHA Safety and Health Topics Page: Formaldehyde](#)
  - Glutaraldehyde
    - Read a guidance document. [Best Practices for the Safe Use of Glutaraldehyde in Health Care](#). OSHA Publication 3258 (2006). Also available as a 264 KB [PDF](#).
  - Hazardous chemicals in laboratories.
    - Read a fact sheet. [Hazardous Chemicals in Laboratories](#). Also available as a 256 KB [PDF](#).
    - Learn more. [OSHA Safety and Health Topics Page: Laboratories](#)
  - Hazardous drugs
    - Review OSHA's Technical Manual. [Controlling Occupational Exposure to Hazardous Drugs](#). OSHA Technical Manual, Section VI, Chapter 2
    - Learn more.
      - [OSHA Safety and Health Topics Page: Hazardous Drugs](#)
      - [NIOSH Safety and Health Topic Page: Hazardous Drug Exposure in Health Care](#)
  - Mercury
    - Learn more. [OSHA Safety and Health Topics Page: Mercury](#)
  - Waste anesthetic gases
    - Read OSHA guidelines. [Anesthetic Gases: Guidelines for Workplace Exposures](#) (2000)
    - Learn more. [OSHA Safety and Health Topics Page: Waste Anesthetic Gases](#)
8. **Other hazards.**
  - Compressed gas
    - Learn more. [OSHA Safety and Health Topics Page: Compressed Gas and Equipment](#)
  - Laser hazards

- Review a Safety and Health Information Bulletin:
  - [Hazard of Laser Surgery Smoke](#). (1988, April 11).
- Learn more
  - [OSHA eTool: Hospital - Laser Hazards](#)
  - [OSHA Safety and Health Topics Page: Laser Hazards](#)
  - [OSHA Safety and Health Topics Page: Laser/Electrosurgery Plume](#)
- Latex allergy
  - Review a Safety and Health Information Bulletin. [Potential for Sensitization and Possible Allergic Reaction To Natural Rubber Latex Gloves and other Natural Rubber Products](#). (2008, January 28).
  - Learn more.
    - [OSHA eTool: Hospital - Latex Allergy](#)
    - [OSHA Safety and Health Topics Page: Latex Allergy](#)

### Step 3: Survey Your Workplace for Additional Hazards

Survey your workplace for additional hazards and OSHA requirements by:

- Using a checklist. See the Self-Inspection Checklists in [OSHA's Small Business Handbook](#). OSHA Publication 2209 (2005). Also available as a 264 KB [PDF](#).
- Reviewing the [Hospital Investigation Guide for OSHA Compliance Officers](#). OSHA Technical Manual, Section VI, Chapter 1.
- Using online tools.
  - [OSHA Expert Advisor: OSHA Hazard Awareness Advisor](#). This tool can help you identify and understand common safety and health hazards in your workplace. It will ask you about activities, practices, material, equipment, and policies at your workplace. The Hazard Awareness Advisor uses your answers to determine the hazards that are likely to be present. It then prepares a customized report that briefly describes the likely hazards and the OSHA standards that address those hazards.
  - [OSHA Expert Advisor: SafeCare Advisor for Long-Term Health Care Facilities](#). This tool can help identify common safety and health hazards at long-term health care facilities.
- Reviewing OSHA's [Safety and Health Information Bulletins](#).

### Step 4: Find Information About Specific Health Care Sectors

- Clinicians
  - [OSHA Safety and Health Topics Page: Clinicians](#)
- Home Healthcare
  - [OSHA Safety and Health Topics Page: Home Healthcare](#)
- Hospitals
  - [Worker Safety in Hospitals](#)
  - [OSHA eTool: Hospital](#)
- Laboratories
  - [OSHA Safety and Health Topics Page: Laboratories](#)
- Medical and Dental Offices
  - [OSHA Safety and Health Topics Page: Dentistry](#)
  - OSHA Publication: [Medical & Dental Offices: A Guide to Compliance with OSHA Standards](#) [PDF\* - 240 KB]. OSHA Publication 3187 (2003)
- Nursing Homes and Personal Care Facilities
  - [OSHA eTool: Nursing Home](#)
  - [OSHA Safety and Health Topics Page: Nursing Homes and Personal Care Facilities](#)
  - [OSHA Expert Advisor: SafeCare Advisor for Long Term Health Care Facilities](#)

## Step 5: Develop a Comprehensive Safety and Health Program

While OSHA does not require employers to develop comprehensive safety and health programs, development and implementation of these programs is an effective way to comply with OSHA standards and prevent workplace injuries and illnesses. The information you've obtained from the steps above is a good start for developing a comprehensive safety and health program.

For help in developing a program:

- Review OSHA's voluntary guidelines. [OSHA's Voluntary Safety and Health Program Management Guidelines \(1989\)](#)
- Read a fact sheet. [Effective Workplace Safety and Health Management Systems](#) [PDF\* - 579 KB]
- See a sample program. [OSHA Sample Safety and Health Program for Small Business](#). [Disclaimer]
- Find more help to create your own program. [OSHA eTool: Safety and Health Management Systems eTool](#)
- Request a free on-site consultation. [OSHA On-site Consultation Program](#)
- Learn more. [OSHA Safety and Health Topics Page: Injury and Illness Prevention Programs](#)

Learn how a safety and health program can add value to your organization:

- Read a brochure. [OSHA Publication: Safety and Health Add Value](#). Also available as a 201 KB [PDF](#).
- Use an online tool. [Safety Pays Program](#)
- Learn More. [OSHA Safety and Health Topics Page: Making the Business Case for Safety and Health](#)

## Step 6: Train Your Employees

Learn about resources available from OSHA for training employers and employees by:

- Visiting OSHA's [Training Resources](#) page.
- Reviewing OSHA's [Training and Reference Materials](#) page.
- Learning about OSHA's [Outreach Training Program](#).
- Downloading OSHA [10-Hour General Industry Outreach-Trainer Presentations](#).
- Learning about courses available from the [OSHA Training Institute](#) (OTI) in Arlington Heights, Illinois and [OTI Education Centers](#) around the country.

**NOTE:** A number of OSHA standards include employee training requirements. For a listing of these requirements, see [Training Requirements in OSHA Standards and Training Guidelines](#) (OSHA Publication 2254). This publication also includes voluntary training guidelines that employers can use to help design, conduct, evaluate, and revise their safety and health training programs. Also available as a 724 KB [PDF](#).

## Step 7: Recordkeeping, Reporting, and Posting

1. **Recordkeeping.** OSHA requires certain employers to keep records of workplace injuries and illnesses ([29 CFR 1904](#)).
  - First determine if you are exempt from the routine recordkeeping requirements. You are not required to keep OSHA injury and illness records (unless asked to do so in writing by OSHA or the Bureau of Labor Statistics) if:
    - 1) you had 10 or fewer employees during all of the last calendar year ([29 CFR 1904.1](#)); or
    - 2) you are in certain low-hazard industries ([29 CFR Part 1904, Subpart B, Appendix A](#)). The following types of health care facilities are exempt from OSHA's injury and illness recordkeeping requirements, regardless of size:
      - Offices and Clinics of Medical Doctors (SIC 801)
      - Offices and Clinics of Dentists (SIC 802)
      - Offices of Osteopathic Physicians (SIC 803)

- Offices of Other Health Care Practitioners (SIC 804)
    - Medical and Dental Laboratories (SIC 807)
    - Health and Allied Services, Not Elsewhere Classified (SIC 809)
  - If you do not qualify for these exemptions, you must comply with OSHA's recordkeeping requirements.
    - [Download OSHA's recordkeeping forms](#) or order them from the [OSHA Publications Office](#).
    - Read a brochure. [Recordkeeping Brochure](#). OSHA Publication 3169 (2001). Also available as a 1 MB [PDF](#).
    - Read the regulations.
      - Recording and reporting occupational injuries and illnesses. [29 CFR 1904](#)
      - Recording criteria for needlestick and sharps injuries. [29 CFR 1904.8](#)
      - Bloodborne pathogens standard, sharps injury log. [29 CFR 1910.1030\(h\)\(5\)](#)
    - Learn more. [OSHA Web Page: Recordkeeping](#)
2. **Reporting.** OSHA requires all employers, regardless of size or industry, to report the work-related death of any employee or hospitalizations of three or more employees. Read about OSHA's reporting requirements ([29 CFR 1904.39](#)).
  3. **OSHA Poster.** All employers must post the OSHA Poster (or state plan equivalent) in a prominent location in the workplace. Download or order the [OSHA Poster](#) in English or Spanish.
  4. **Access to Employee Exposure and Medical Records.** An OSHA standard ([29 CFR 1910.1020](#)) requires employers to provide employees, their designated representatives, and OSHA with access to employee exposure and medical records. Employers generally must maintain employee exposure records for 30 years and medical records for the duration of the employee's employment plus 30 years.
    - Review an OSHA booklet. [Access to Medical and Exposure Records](#). OSHA Publication 3110 (2002). Also available as a 1 MB [PDF](#).

## Step 8: Find Additional Compliance Assistance Information

1. Where can I find a collection of OSHA resources designed for smaller employers?
  - Visit OSHA's [Small Business page](#) and learn about [OSHA's On-site Consultation Program](#).
2. Do you have Spanish-speaking employees?
  - Learn about [OSHA's Spanish language resources](#) and visit OSHA's [Spanish language website](#).
3. Do you employ temporary workers?
  - Visit [OSHA's Protecting Temporary Workers page](#).
4. Do you employ teen or young workers?
  - Visit [OSHA's Young Workers page](#).
5. How do I find out about OSHA's voluntary programs and other ways to work cooperatively with OSHA?
  - Learn about OSHA's [Cooperative Programs](#).
  - OSHA has entered into cooperative agreements with health care organizations or facilities through its [Strategic Partnership Program](#) and [Alliance Program](#).
6. How can I keep up to date on OSHA's compliance assistance resources?
  - Visit OSHA's [Compliance Assistance/Outreach page](#).
  - Subscribe to or read [QuickTakes](#), OSHA's twice monthly electronic newsletter.
7. What if I still have questions?
  - Search the OSHA website. Check the [site index](#) and the [search](#) page.
  - Call the [OSHA 800 Number](#): (800) 321-OSHA (6742).
  - Submit a question by [e-mail](#).
  - Contact your local [OSHA office](#) or [state plan office](#).
  - Request a free [on-site consultation](#).



## Compliance Assistance Quick Start: Health Care Industry - Library

This Health Care Quick Start Library includes a collection of forms, publications, resources, and sample programs from the Quick Start steps, plus additional compliance assistance resources. You can use this collection as a reference after completing the steps.

### Laws and Regulations

- [Occupational Safety and Health Act of 1970](#)
- [OSHA General Industry Standards](#) (29 CFR Part 1910)
- [OSHA Recordkeeping Regulations](#) (29 CFR Part 1904)

### Posters

- [Job Safety and Health Poster](#):
  - English (OSHA Publication 3165)
  - Spanish (OSHA Publication 3167)

### Publications

#### Newsletters

[QuickTakes](#). OSHA's twice monthly electronic newsletter.

#### Cards

[Protecting Yourself: Avian Flu – Health Care Workers](#). OSHA QuickCard, Publication 3308 (2006). Also available as a 36 KB [PDF](#).

#### Fact Sheets

[Bloodborne Pathogens](#)  
Emergency Exit Routes (2003) [[PDF](#)\* - 72 KB]  
[Ethylene Oxide](#) [[PDF](#)\* - 486 KB]  
[Formaldehyde](#) [[PDF](#)\* - 43 KB]  
[Fire Safety in the Workplace](#) (2002). Also available as a 55 KB [PDF](#).  
[OSHA Fact Sheet: Hazard Communication Standard Final Rule](#) (2012)  
[Hazardous Chemicals in Labs](#). Also available as a 55 KB [PDF](#).  
[Healthcare Workplaces Classified as Very High or High Exposure Risk for Pandemic Influenza](#) (2009). Also available as a 54 KB [PDF](#).  
[Personal Protective Equipment](#) (2002) [[PDF](#)\* - 46 KB]  
[Planning and Responding to Workplace Emergencies](#) (2004) [[PDF](#)\* - 355 KB]  
[Seasonal Influenza Vaccination Fact Sheet - Important Protection for Healthcare Workers](#) (2007). Also available as a 989 KB [PDF](#).  
[Workplace Violence](#) [[PDF](#)\* - 362 KB]

#### Booklets

[Access to Medical and Exposure Records](#). OSHA Publication 3110 (2002). Also available as a 1 MB [PDF](#).  
[All About OSHA](#). OSHA Publication 2056 (2003). Also available as a 240 KB [PDF](#).  
[Controlling Electrical Hazards](#). OSHA Publication 3075 (2002). Also available as a 352 KB [PDF](#).  
[Ethylene Oxide \(EtO\): Understanding OSHA's Exposure Monitoring Requirements](#). OSHA

Publication 3325 (2007). Also available as a 184 KB [PDF](#).  
[Hearing Conservation](#). OSHA Publication 3074 (2002). Also available as a 160 KB [PDF](#).  
[Hospitals and Community Emergency Response – What You Need to Know](#) (OSHA Publication 3152) [PDF\* - 350 KB] (2008)  
[How to Plan for Workplace Emergencies and Evacuations](#). OSHA Publication 3088 (2001). Also available as a 252 KB [PDF](#).  
[Job Hazard Analysis](#). OSHA Publication 3071 (2002). Also available as a 500 KB [PDF](#).  
[Materials Handling and Storage](#). OSHA Publication 2236 (2002)  
[Medical & Dental Offices: A Guide to Compliance with OSHA Standards](#) [PDF\* - 240 KB]. OSHA Publication 3187 (2003)  
[OSHA's Small Business Guide for Ethylene Oxide](#) [PDF\* - 14 MB]. OSHA Publication 3359 (2009)  
[Personal Protective Equipment](#). OSHA Publication 3151 (2004). Also available as a 632 KB [PDF](#).  
[Principal Emergency Response and Preparedness – Requirements and Guidance](#). OSHA Publication 3122 (2004). Also available as a 620 KB [PDF](#).  
[Respiratory Protection](#). OSHA Publication 3079 (2002)  
[Safety and Health Add Value](#). OSHA Publication 3180 (2003). Also available as a 201 KB [PDF](#).  
[Small Business Handbook](#). OSHA Publication 2209 (2005). Also available as a 264 KB [PDF](#).  
[Small Entity Compliance Guide for OSHA's Respiratory Protection Standard](#) [PDF\* - 6 MB]. OSHA Small Entity Compliance Guides (1999).  
[Stairways and Ladders](#). OSHA Publication 3124 (2003). Also available as a 156 KB [PDF](#).

### **Safety and Health Information Bulletins**

[Use of Blunt-Tip Suture Needles to Decrease Percutaneous Injuries to Surgical Personnel](#). (2007, November). ([Spanish Version](#))  
[Disposal of Contaminated Needles and Blood Tube Holders Used for Phlebotomy](#) (2003, October 15). Also available as a 37 KB [PDF](#).  
[Hazard of Laser Surgery Smoke](#). (1988, April 11).  
[Potential for Sensitization and Possible Allergic Reaction To Natural Rubber Latex Gloves and other Natural Rubber Products](#). (2008, January 28).  
[Potential for Occupational Exposure to Bloodborne Pathogens From Cleaning Needles Used in Allergy Testing Procedures](#). (1995, September 21).  
[Sharps Disposal Containers with Needle Removal Features](#). (1993, March 12).

### **Other Publications and Guidelines**

[Anesthetic Gases: Guidelines for Workplace Exposures](#). OSHA (2000)  
[Best Practices for Hospital-Based First Receivers of Victims from Mass Casualty Incidents Involving the Release of Hazardous Substances](#). OSHA Publication 3249 (2005). Also available as a 560 KB [PDF](#).  
[Best Practices for the Safe Use of Glutaraldehyde in Health Care](#). OSHA Publication 3258 (2006). Also available as a 264 KB [PDF](#).  
[Best Practices Guide: Fundamentals of a Workplace First-Aid Program](#) [PDF\* - 164 KB]. OSHA Publication 3317 (2006)  
[FDA, NIOSH and OSHA Joint Safety Communication on Blunt-Tip Surgical Suture Needles](#) (May 2012)  
[Guidance on Preparing Workplaces for an Influenza Pandemic](#). OSHA Publication 3327 (2007)  
[Guidelines for Nursing Homes: Ergonomics for the Prevention of Musculoskeletal Disorders](#). OSHA (2003)  
[Guidelines for Preventing Workplace Violence for Health Care and Social Service Workers](#). OSHA Publication 3148. Also available as a 628 KB [PDF](#).  
[OSHA Guidance Update on Protecting Employees from Avian Flu \(Avian Influenza\) Viruses](#). OSHA Publication 3323 (2006). Also available as a 1 [PDF](#).

[OSHA Technical Manual, Section VI – Health-Care Facilities](#)  
[Pandemic Influenza Preparedness and Response Guidance for Healthcare Workers and Healthcare Employers](#). OSHA Publication 3328 (2007). Also available as a 405 KB [PDF](#).  
[Self-Inspection Checklists](#). Small Business Handbook, OSHA Publication 2209 (2005)  
[Voluntary Safety and Health Program Management Guidelines](#). OSHA (1989)

### Web Pages

- [Beryllium](#). OSHA Safety and Health Topics Page
- [Biological Agents](#). OSHA Safety and Health Topics Page
- [Bloodborne Pathogens and Needlestick Prevention](#). OSHA Safety and Health Topics Page
- [Clinicians](#). OSHA Safety and Health Topics Page
- [Compressed Gas and Equipment](#). OSHA Safety and Health Topics Page
- [Consultation Services](#). OSHA Web Page
- [Dentistry](#). OSHA Safety and Health Topics Page
- [Electrical](#). OSHA Safety and Health Topics Page
- [Ergonomics](#). OSHA Safety and Health Topics Page
- [Ethylene Oxide](#). OSHA Safety and Health Topics Page
- [Fire Safety](#). OSHA Safety and Health Topics Page
- [Formaldehyde](#). OSHA Safety and Health Topics Page
- [Hazard Communication](#). OSHA Safety and Health Topics Page
- [Hazardous Drug Exposure in Health Care](#). NIOSH Safety and Health Topic Page
- [Hazardous Drugs](#). OSHA Safety and Health Topics Page
- [Healthcare Facilities](#). OSHA Safety and Health Topics Page
- [Health Care Workers](#). NIOSH Safety and Health Topic Page
- [Home Healthcare](#). OSHA Safety and Health Topics Page
- [Injury and Illness Prevention Programs](#). OSHA Safety and Health Topics Page
- [Ionizing Radiation](#). OSHA Safety and Health Topics Page
- [Laboratories](#). OSHA Safety and Health Topics Page
- [Laser Hazards](#). OSHA Safety and Health Topics Page
- [Laser/Electrosurgery Plume](#). OSHA Safety and Health Topics Page
- [Latex Allergy](#). OSHA Safety and Health Topics Page
- [Medical and First Aid](#). OSHA Safety and Health Topics Page
- [Mercury](#). OSHA Safety and Health Topics Page
- [Nursing Homes and Personal Care Facilities](#). OSHA Safety and Health Topics Page
- [Occupational Noise Exposure](#). OSHA Safety and Health Topics Page
- [On-site Consultation](#)/li>
- [Pandemic Influenza](#). OSHA Safety and Health Topics Page
- [Personal Protective Equipment](#). OSHA Safety and Health Topics Page
- [Respiratory Protection](#). OSHA Safety and Health Topics Page
- [Seasonal Flu](#). OSHA Safety and Health Topics Page
- [Small Business](#). OSHA Web Page
- Spanish Language Resources
  - [Spanish Language Page](#) (OSHA en Español). OSHA Web Page
  - [Spanish-Language Compliance Assistance Resources](#). OSHA Web Page
- [Temporary Workers](#)
- [Transitioning to Safer Chemicals: A Toolkit for Employers and Workers](#)
- [Tuberculosis](#). OSHA Safety and Health Topics Page
- [Walking/Working Surfaces](#). OSHA Safety and Health Topics Page
- [Waste Anesthetic Gases](#). OSHA Safety and Health Topics Page
- [Worker Safety in Hospitals](#)
- [Workplace Violence](#). OSHA Safety and Health Topics Page

## Electronic Compliance Assistance Tools: eTools and Expert Advisors

- [Complete Listing of eTools and Advisors](#)
- [Evacuation Plans and Procedures eTool](#). OSHA eTool.
- [Fire Safety](#). OSHA Expert Advisor.
- [Hazard Awareness](#). OSHA Expert Advisor.
- [Hospital](#). OSHA eTool.
- [Nursing Home](#). OSHA eTool.
- [Respiratory Protection](#). OSHA eTool.
- [SafeCare Advisor for Long-Term Health Care Facilities](#). OSHA Expert Advisor.
- [Safety and Health Management Systems](#). OSHA eTool.
- [Safety Pays Program](#). OSHA Expert System.

## Sample Programs

The following sample programs provide examples of written programs on workplace safety and health topics. They are provided for illustrative purposes only. These sample programs do not supersede the requirements in OSHA standards. Employers should consult the applicable OSHA standards for the specific requirements applicable to their workplaces when developing their own customized programs.

The sample programs from State Consultation Programs may contain local contact information. Employers are encouraged to contact their own [State Consultation Program](#) for help in developing customized programs.

- [Model Plans and Programs for the OSHA Bloodborne Pathogens and Hazard Communications Standards](#). OSHA Publication 3186 (2003). Also available as a 520 KB [PDF](#).
- [Emergency Action and Fire Prevention Plan](#), Illinois Consultation Program [[PDF](#) - 23 KB].
- [Respiratory Protection, Appendix IV to Small Entity Compliance Guide for the Revised Respiratory Protection Standard, OSHA Publication](#) [[PDF](#)\* - 720 KB]
- [Safety and Health Program for Small Business](#), included in OSHA Safety and Health Management Systems eTool

## Videos

- [The Difference Between Respirators and Surgical Masks](#)
- [Respiratory Protection for Healthcare Workers](#)

## Success Stories and Case Studies

### Success Stories

[Borderview Rehabilitation and Living Center](#), ([OSHA Safety and Health Achievement Recognition Program Site](#))  
[Citizens Memorial Healthcare](#), ([OSHA Voluntary Protection Programs Participant](#))  
[Heritage Enterprises, Inc.](#)

### Case Studies

[Countryside Care Nursing Home](#) (developed through the [OSHA and Abbott Alliance](#))