

**WORKSAFE SERVICES DIVISION  
OCCUPATIONAL HEALTH AND SAFETY  
LEGISLATIVE INTERPRETATIONS**



|                |   |                                    |
|----------------|---|------------------------------------|
| <b>Topic</b>   | Handling an object or material – Health care sector | Issued by: V.P., WorkSafe Services |
| <b>Statute</b> | <i>Regulation 91-191</i>                            | Date Issued: December 11, 1998     |
| <b>Section</b> | 52  | Date Revised:                      |

**52** Where the health or safety of an employee handling an object or material may be endangered, an employer shall ensure that

- a) adequate and appropriate equipment is provided to the employee and is used by the employee for lifting and moving the object or material, and
- b) the employee is instructed as to the appropriate method of lifting and moving objects and material.

**Question**

Can this section be applicable to the health care sector and the handling of patient?

**Response:**

While the section cannot be applied to the handling of patients, the principles in the section do apply.

Using the *Occupational Health and Safety Act's* section 9(1)(a) that requires employers to take every reasonable precaution to ensure the health and safety of their employees, employers must comply with provisions (a) and (b) if the health and safety of an employee handling a patient may be endangered.