



# INSIDE SRHS

A newsletter from the Corporate Health staff of Spartanburg Regional Healthcare System.

**March 2023**

## What's inside

- The Importance of Mobile Equipment Physicals
- Are You Hiring Your Next Injury?
- How Do You Create a Drug-Free Workplace Policy?
- Top Ranked Hospital
- The Pain Points of MSK
- Do We Need to Make Any Changes to Your Account?

## The Importance of Mobile Equipment Physicals



The Upstate has a heavy concentration of manufacturing-related work. With manufacturing, you have parts, raw materials and finished products moving from one place to another from outside your organization and inside your production area. Powered industrial vehicles such as forklifts, tractors, electric pallet jacks, cherry pickers or overhead cranes are often used to move and transfer heavy items, and

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Operators of powered industrial vehicles need special on-the-job training as an integral part of their job. Powered industrial vehicle operators must be alert, well-trained, healthy and physically fit to complete their duties well. The Occupational Health and Safety Administration (OSHA) General Duty Clause states, "Each employer shall furnish to each of his employees' employment and a place of employment which are free from recognized hazards that are causing or are likely to cause death or serious physical harm to his employees." So, what does this mean? Essentially, the burden lies on the employer to ensure that industrial-powered equipment operators are healthy and safe.

Consider standing on your production floor in the environment where your powered industrial vehicle operator is working. Consider the noise, visual distractions, other powered industrial vehicles, other associates walking about, moving machine parts, raw materials and products, potential debris or clutter, tight, cramped spaces and the need to be on the go to meet production goals. Now add operator John Doe, an excellent employee but also a disabled individual who, over the years, may have developed additional skills to bypass some fitness tests. He has been absent from work for longer than one month. He brings a doctor's note verifying his absence and wants to return to work as usual. But a doctor's letter does not constitute a medical assessment for suitability to continue operating a powered industrial vehicle. It is merely a medical excuse note. You must ask yourself: did John Doe have a medical condition that could impact his ability to operate the powered industrial vehicle safely? Is he on any concerning medications? Does he have restrictions or limitations? How would John Doe respond to an emergency, working at night, moving highly toxic or explosive materials, or working in a particularly demanding environment now?

At Spartanburg Regional Corporate Health, we have trained medical providers and board-certified occupational medicine physicians who not only understand and treat medical problems but are your subject matter experts for occupational-related medical issues that involve the health, safety and well-being of your employees. We offer mobile equipment medical physicals for powered industrial vehicle operators. These physicals include a thorough physical examination of your associate, a review of their medical and surgical history, current medications and potential side effects, hearing and vision evaluation, urinalysis and blood pressure. We have mirrored our medical assessment and decision-making process to follow DOT medical standards and guidelines for a more streamlined, consistent and transparent process. In addition to medical evaluations, we also offer DOT and non-DOT drug screening because industrial-powered vehicle operators are in a safety-critical position and must be free of alcohol or substance abuse issues.

As an employer, you should view mobile equipment physicals as a safety measure for the operator and others in the vicinity of the vehicle in operation. So let us help you keep your powered industrial operators safe and healthy.

*-Sajid S. Pathan, MD, MPH -- Medical Director, Spartanburg Regional Corporate Health, Board Certified Occupational Medicine Physician*

References: OSH Act of 1970. Sec. 5. Duties. [General Duty Clause](#).

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## Are You Hiring Your Next Injury?

Post-offer exams are more than a cost-reduction initiative. Most candidates don't know whether they can safely perform your company's job tasks. They've never done that exact job before.

Ensuring the employee can do the job safely leads to decreased injuries, workers' compensation costs and attrition.

- The national manufacturing average is 3.3 Musculoskeletal MSD OSHA for their total incident rate in 2021. Our clients averaged a 1.455 MSD OSHA incident rate in the fiscal year 2022.
- One area manufacturer's incident rate dropped from 7.63 in 2021 to 1.94 in 2022 with the addition of our injury prevention program. That's a 75 percent reduction within the first year.
- Historically, we achieve a minimum of 40 percent reduction in MSD incident rate after the first year of implementation of our onsite Injury Prevention Programming.

Let us know if you want to determine how Essential Function Testing (EFTs) can lead to decreased injuries and costs.

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## How Do You Create a Drug-Free Workplace Policy?

## Mobile Services Save Time and Money

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According to the CDC, 70 percent of people with a substance-use disorder are employed. Naturally, that presents a problem for any organization's safety and attendance goals.

So, how do companies initiate and implement a legal and effective testing program?

[https://ohsonline.com/articles/2022/05/26/basic-elements-of-a-drug-free\\_0.aspx?admgarea=ht.DrugandAlcoholTesting](https://ohsonline.com/articles/2022/05/26/basic-elements-of-a-drug-free_0.aspx?admgarea=ht.DrugandAlcoholTesting)

Please get in touch with us for more information about how Spartanburg Regional Corporate Health can help with pre-employment, for cause or random substance-abuse testing.

Spartanburg Regional Corporate Health's comprehensive teams hit the road more than 20 years ago to provide accessible and affordable healthcare solutions to Upstate businesses and industries. As a result, when you utilize our mobile services, your employees will not have to travel offsite, saving your company time and money.

Using our 54-foot mobile exam trailer, we can perform 20 comprehensive exams in only four hours. In addition, our 4-booth portable audio unit allows us to perform up to 20 (AH) hearing tests per hour.

The mobile mammography unit is operated and staffed by our Bearden-Josey Center for Breast Health. For more detailed information about patients' eligibility for mobile mammogram services:

<https://www.spartanburgregional.com/breast-health/mobile-mammography>.

Our mobile unit services include:

- Hearing conservation
  - Firefighter physicals
  - Law enforcement physicals
  - Surveillance physicals
  - DOT physicals
  - Annual wellness exams
  - Mammograms
  - Skin cancer screenings
-





## Top Ranked Hospital

### *Healthgrades Recognizes Vascular Surgery*

Spartanburg Medical Center is a recipient of the Healthgrades 2022 Vascular Surgery Excellence Award and was named among the Top 10 percent in the nation for Vascular Surgery in 2022 by Healthgrades.

### *Healthgrades Five-Star Recipient*

Spartanburg Medical Center was named by Healthgrades as a five-star recipient for Carotid Procedures for seven years in a row (2016-2022).

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## The Pain Points of Musculoskeletal (MSK) Conditions

## Do We Need to Make Any Changes to Your Account?

Half of all Americans experience musculoskeletal (MSK) pain in any given year. That's the findings of a State of MSK Report.

As you can imagine, that means soaring medical costs: \$600 per year, one of the top three cost drivers in the U.S. health system.

The report makes five key recommendations for employers. To learn more, go [here](#).

If you have not done so recently, the new year is an excellent time to look at your current account setup and make any adjustments. Spartanburg Regional Corporate Health strives to ensure we follow your companies' policies to meet your pre-employment and post-injury needs.

Do you have a new workers' compensation carrier? Is there a new contact that needs to receive results from us? Is there a new billing contact? Do you need to add or change some of your services? Please let us know if we can assist.

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