

A caregiver in blue scrubs is assisting an elderly woman with a walker. The woman is wearing a white cardigan over a green top. They are in a room with a bed in the background.

# Special emphasis inspections coming to nursing and residential care facilities in Washington State.

**Keep your nursing and personal-care staff safe and working. Take action to:**

- *Identify and manage your safety and health hazards.*
- *Meet your legal requirements for a safe workplace.*
- *Get help from L&I.*



# Washington State Department of Labor & Industries

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## Inspections at nursing and residential care facilities

Medical, personal-care, and other staff at nursing and residential care facilities are at risk from a variety of health and safety hazards. Your efforts to identify and manage these serious hazards will keep your employees safe and working.

**Your workplace could be visited by an L&I safety and health inspector. Be prepared.**

Learn about developing an effective safety program at [www.lni.wa.gov/Safety/Basics/Steps](http://www.lni.wa.gov/Safety/Basics/Steps). Make sure your program covers:

- Safe patient handling.
- Workplace violence.
- Biological hazards, such as tuberculosis and bloodborne pathogens.
- Slips and falls.
- Hazardous chemicals.
- Other hazards specific to the workplace.

Find applicable safety and health rules, training, and other online resources to help you build your safety program at [www.lni.wa.gov/Safety/Topics/AtoZ](http://www.lni.wa.gov/Safety/Topics/AtoZ). Click on “N” for “Nursing and Residential Care Facilities.”

Contact an L&I Safety and Health consultant who can help you identify hazards in your workplace. Visit [www.SafetyConsultants.Lni.wa.gov](http://www.SafetyConsultants.Lni.wa.gov) to learn more or call **1-800-423-7233** to request a consultation.

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## National Emphasis Program underway

The federal Occupational Safety & Health Administration (OSHA) has begun a National Emphasis Program (NEP) to address hazards for workers in nursing homes and residential care facilities. The goal is to conduct inspections focused on workplace hazards, including patient handling, workplace violence, tuberculosis, exposure to blood and other potentially infectious materials, hazardous chemicals, slips and falls.

The Department of Labor & Industries (L&I) is participating in this NEP by sending inspectors to these facilities and increasing safety and health education and outreach.