



NEWS RELEASE

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Banner Estrella Medical Center creates safer environment for patients and staff

PHOENIX (March 28, 2008) – Banner Estrella Medical Center has launched a campaign to ensure a safer environment for patients and medical staff.

According to the U.S. Department of Labor Bureau of Labor Statistics, a back injury occurs every 30 minutes among health care workers in the United States. Hospitals reported more injuries and illnesses than any other industry in 2006. This makes nursing one of the occupations at highest risk for injury.

Research shows that proper use of lift systems when moving patients results in fewer injuries for both patients and staff. As part of Banner Estrella's campaign, all clinical staff will be required to use lift systems to transport and move patients. Currently, hospital staff is being trained to use ceiling lifts, sit stand lifts, and bed lifts.

"By implementing a safe lift environment, which includes training, education, and mandatory use of lift systems throughout the hospital, we hope to not only reduce employee injuries, but improve patient care. That is our ultimate goal," said Karin Toci, chief nursing officer at Banner Estrella Medical Center.

The mandatory training sessions will be held at the following times:

- Monday, March 31, 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. and 8 to 11 p.m.
- Tuesday, April 1, 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. and 8 to 11 p.m.
- Wednesday, April 2, 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. and 8 to 11 p.m.

If you would like to attend, please contact Mary Brandenberger at (623) 327-7168 or Mary.Brandenberger@BannerHealth.com. Media may also page the Public Relations department at (602) 817-7322.

Banner Gateway Medical Center, located in Gilbert, has a similar safe lift program.

Banner Estrella Medical Center, located on the southeast corner of the Loop 101 Freeway and Thomas Road, is a 208-bed full-service hospital offering general surgery, orthopedics, OB services, a full cardiac program with open-heart surgery, emergency services, and imaging services. Banner Estrella is part of Banner Health, the leading provider of health care services in the Valley with eight hospitals.

For more information about Banner Estrella, visit us online at www.BannerHealth.com.

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