Population Health Clerkship in Employee Health

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Clinical Responsibilities
- Occupational injuries and illnesses
- Blood borne pathogen exposure
- Work evaluation and “Fit for Duty”
- Return to work clearance and worker’s compensation
- Pre-employment and drug screening
- Respiratory mask clearance
- Drug Screenings
- Vaccinations and Annual TB

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Why OEM is Important
- Annual Statics on Workplace Safety
  - 2.9 million non-fatals injuries/illnesses reported by US private industry
  - 752,600 among public employers (e.g. government, police & fire, schools)
  - Cost to employer is over $1 billion per week
- Healthcare Specific Statistics
  - 15.8 million healthcare workers in the US; 40-50% working in the hospital setting
  - 253,700 hospital work-related injuries/illnesses (annually)
  - 58,860 cases involved days away from work

Injuries and Illnesses Resulting in Days Away from Work, by Industry, 1992–2011

Data source: Bureau of Labor Statistics

Worksite Visit to Weetabix Cereals

Inspecting a local factory to assess for hazards and learn more about the safety measures in place to protect their employees

Conclusion
- Workplace injuries/illnesses are common and expensive, especially within a high risk population like hospital employees
- Employee health services focuses on treatment, compensation, and prevention of such injuries with the main goal being safety and employee functionality
- The best preventative action is hazard management, not personal protection

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