

October 7, 1992
(Revised 9/20/06)

Kay Coots
Department of Public Safety
University of Oregon
1319 East 15th
Eugene OR 97403-1230

Dear Ms. Coots:

This letter replaces the interpretation letter dated October 7, 1992. On October 3, 1992, you requested clarification on OR-OSHA's rule that requires employers to report all accidents or injuries resulting in a hospital admission within 24 hours after the employer receives notification. You specifically addressed the case where an employee seeks medical treatment for a back injury and is hospitalized several months after the incident.

It was not OR-OSHA's intent to require every hospitalization that could be work related be reported, but rather only those in which there was a hospitalization at the time of the incident so that a timely investigation could be conducted to preclude the potential injury of additional workers.

Your second question asks whether the reporting applies to hospital admissions of all durations. For purposes of determining the reporting requirement in OAR 437-001-0700(21), overnight hospitalization is for medical treatment only. Hospitalization for observation is not reportable, nor is emergency room treatment. While it is recognized that there may be occasions when someone is admitted to the hospital for brief treatment, this is likely to be the exception. This situation was raised during the rule promulgation process, but it was determined that most admissions would involve treatment or an injury or illness of enough significance to warrant reporting under this rule. Whether these reports are followed up with an inspection will be determined by the enforcement supervisor in the office receiving the report.

Please feel free to contact me if you have questions at (503)378-3272.

Sincerely,

Peggy Munsell, Manager
Standards and Technical Resources Section
Oregon Occupational Safety & Health Division