Among patient handling-related MSDs, workers employed under 5 years at the health system had over three times more claims than workers employed over 20 years (IRR=3.1 (2.5–3.7)), while men experienced slightly higher claims than women (IRR=1.2 (1.1–1.4)), and emergency medical technicians (EMTs) had two times more claims than nurses. Union membership, shift schedule, and full-time status showed no significant relationship; some effects were shown in evening shift (IRR=1.1 (1.0–1.3) and per-diem (IRR=1.3 (1.0–1.5)). Forty-two percent of injuries occurred while lifting patients and 19% occurred while holding or carrying patients. EMTs obtained 85% of MSDs from patient lifting, holding, or carrying. Lifting, holding or carrying patients explained over half of patient handling-related MSDs.

Conclusions The above risk factors can be modified through proper engineering controls.