

Do You Know How Occupational Data for Health Can Support Quality Care?



An Introduction for Healthcare Professionals

What Is Occupational Data for Health (ODH)?

- A method for your patients to report their standardized, useful work information to you.
- A customizable framework for your electronic health record (EHR) to meet the needs of your organization.
- A set of valuable information you can choose from, like employment status, jobs, usual (longest-held) work, voluntary work, retirement dates, and periods working in combat zones.

Examples of How ODH Can Help You

Assist your patients who have chronic diseases

- *Identify night shift workers with poorly controlled diabetes and access educational materials.*

Improve preventive care for your high-risk populations of workers

- *Identify housepainters to inform them about the risks of lead paint exposure and the importance of blood level screening.*

Recognize new relationships between work and health in your patient populations

- *Identify trends or hotspots where infectious disease transmission might be occurring and inform public health authorities.*

Help your patients return to work after an illness or injury

- *Identify patients that operate heavy machinery or drive vehicles while at work and have been prescribed medications that can diminish alertness or response time to educate them about relevant restrictions.*

Recognize your patients with work-related illnesses that require notification to a public health authority

- *Identify pesticide poisoning in agricultural workers and inform public health authorities.*

Next Steps

- Ask your patients about their work – it's where they spend one-third of their lives!
- Talk to your EHR vendor about incorporating ODH for your organization.



For more information, go to the NIOSH [Electronic Health Records](https://www.cdc.gov/eHR/) website or email us at [EHRs and Work@CDC.gov](mailto:EHRs_and_Work@CDC.gov).

