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**CLIENT ALERT – Nursing Homes Subject to Increased Inspections**

Dear Client:

Recently, the U.S. Department of Labor's Bureau of Labor Statistics released detailed data on nonfatal occupational injuries and illnesses requiring days away from work in 2010. The incidence rate for health care support workers increased six percent, almost two and one-half times the rate for all private and public sector workers. The rate for nursing aides, orderlies and attendants rose seven percent. As a result, Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) has stated that "OSHA [will respond] by launching, in the next few months, a National Emphasis Program on Nursing Home and Residential Care Facilities. Through this initiative, we will increase our inspections of these facilities, focusing on back injuries from resident handling or lifting patients; exposure to bloodborne pathogens and other infectious diseases; workplace violence; and slips, trips and falls."

In light of OSHA's promised inspections, healthcare employers may want to prioritize safety in the workplace, especially in the areas that will be a focus of OSHA. If you have any questions about the OSHA initiative or any other employment or labor law matter, please contact us at 717-620-2424.

Sincerely,

Glenn R. Davis

Angela L. Thomas

Daniel R. Jameson

The information herein reflects the views of the author. The information should be construed as general guidelines and not interpreted as legal advice.