

SAFE HOME CARE PROJECT

WHAT'S NEW

Find more on our website, including:

Links to our publications

Resources for Safe Home Care

Information on our project and team members

[www.uml.edu/
SafeHC](http://www.uml.edu/SafeHC)

Upcoming Seminar/Webinar

Safe Home Care Project Principal Investigator Dr. Margaret Quinn will be presenting a seminar about the project's work as part of the NORA Interdisciplinary Seminar Series for the North Carolina Occupational Safety and Health Education and Research Center.

Title: "Safe Home Care Project: Improving the Health and Safety of Home Care Aides Through Mixed-Methods Research"

Date and time: Monday, February 5, 1-2:30 ET

The seminar will be broadcast as a live webinar and will also be available in the NORA archives after February 5th. To register or find out more, visit <https://courses.sph.unc.edu/nc-osherc/>.

Our latest project:

The Safe Home Care Project is currently developing evidence-based guidance on cleaning and disinfection products and practices that are effective for infection prevention and safe for the respiratory health of home care aides, nurses, and clients.

For more information, see the Safe Cleaning and Disinfection Project research page on our website at <https://www.uml.edu/SafeHC>

New on our website

Two new research-to-practice products are now available on our website.

Fact Sheets

Our first set of fact sheets for aide and client health in cleaning and disinfection is now available. Targeted specifically for the home care audience, current fact sheets include:

- 5 Quick Ways to Reduce Health Effects of Cleaning,
- How to Read a Label, and
- Chemical Ingredients - Questions and Answers.

Additional non-technical, easy-to-read fact sheets are in progress. Find them via our website or directly at <https://www.uml.edu/SafeHCFactSheets>.

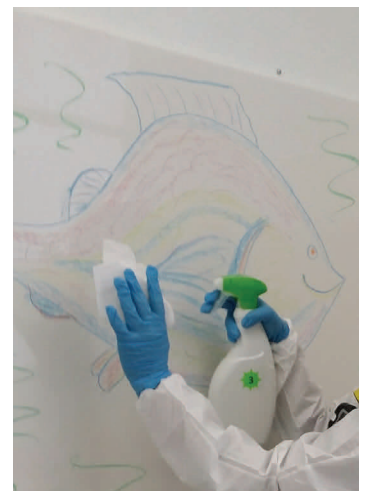
Article Summaries

We now have summary documents available for several of our peer-reviewed publications. Designed for people who want to get an overview of the study topic without reading a full journal publication, each of the documents presents a brief summary of the study and its findings. The summaries also

include guidance for employers/supervisors, homecare aides, and their advocates on how the study findings can be put in practice. Our first six article summaries can be found on the Publications page of our website.

Feedback

Please share with us your feedback about our new materials. If you've used them, what was useful? What could we do differently? You can reach us at SafeHomeCare@uml.edu.



Research snapshot: Our cleaning and disinfection project included air monitoring during cleaning trials in our mock bathroom lab.



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Our latest publications

Three new peer-reviewed science articles by the Safe Home Care Project have been published since our last newsletter. Two of the articles are open access and can be viewed without a subscription. Links and full citations for all articles can be found on the Publications page on our website.

“Risk of Sharps Injuries to Home Care Nurses and Aides: A Systematic Review and Meta-Analysis” was published in November 2017 in the Journal of Occupational and Environmental Medicine. The article reviewed the available literature to develop a pooled esti-

mate of the risk of sharps injuries among home care nurses and aides.

“Cleaning and disinfection in home care: A comparison of 2 commercial products with potentially different consequences for respiratory health” has been published online ahead-of-print by the American Journal of Infection Control. The article evaluated the effectiveness of two commercially-available cleaning and disinfection products in elder homes. The products — a traditional bleach-containing cleaner and an environmentally preferable cleaner — were

chosen for their potentially different impacts on aide and client health.

“Ergonomic evaluation of slide boards used by home care aides to assist client transfers” has been published online ahead-of-print by the journal Ergonomics. In this study, aides used 4 different low-technology transfer devices to assist a client from bed to wheelchair. The devices were assessed for biomechanical force required and usability as described by the participants.

Meet Our Team : Doctoral Students

In this newsletter, we introduce you to two doctoral students conducting their dissertation research with the Safe Home Care Project.

Name: Nicole Karlsson

Place of birth: Boston, MA

Academic background: geology, education, industrial hygiene

Focus of dissertation research: relationships between aides and clients; reducing risk of violence and abuse against aides

Motivation for dissertation topic: “I worked part-time as a Direct Support Provider for the same client for 6 years, with many challenges and rewards. The one-on-one relationship between a worker and client in their home is something I experienced firsthand and I believe it is critical to understanding the home care occupation”



Name: Noor Sheikh

Place of birth: Dhaka, Bangladesh

Academic background: occupational medicine

Focus of dissertation research: respiratory health related to use of cleaning and disinfection products in home care

Motivation for dissertation topic: “I worked as an occupational physician in Bangladesh. Occupational lung disease has been an area of interest for me due to my work with silicosis. New methods to diagnose respiratory problems due to occupational exposure are a big step towards prevention, safety, and intervention.”

