
Healthcare Workplace Safety Leadership for Hospital Executives Course

20 – 24 September 2027
Cape town





Healthcare Workplace Safety Leadership for Hospital Executives Course

Ref: 29_11476 **Date:** 20 – 24 September 2027 **Location:** Cape town **Fees:** 4800 GBP

Programme Summary

Healthcare workplace safety leadership for hospital executives is a one-week training course for senior leaders at strategic level, culminating in a healthcare workplace safety programme plan for their hospital or facility network. Health workers face biological, chemical, physical, ergonomic and psychosocial hazards every shift, and staff injuries feed into absence, turnover and patient care. The approach applies the hierarchy of controls to each hazard group and builds a programme leaders can govern. Mars Training Centre UK delivers this programme in healthcare workplace safety leadership.

The Business Case

Hospitals that treat staff safety as a quality issue see fewer injuries and steadier staffing. Most harm to health workers comes from known sources, such as sharps, patient handling, hazardous drugs and violence, yet controls are often left to individual departments. Executives who govern them as one programme target investment better.

- Staff Injury and Exposure Rates: Fall as needlestick, musculoskeletal and violence incidents are controlled at source.
- Workforce Absence and Turnover: Reduce when staff see action on hazards and psychosocial strain.
- Facility Readiness and Inspection Results: Improve through tested fire, utility and waste arrangements.

Principles and Evidence Base

- WHO and ILO Guide on Occupational Health and Safety Programmes for Health Workers: Shapes the programme structure, roles and governance built in Sessions 1 and 5.
- Hierarchy of Controls: Ranks elimination, substitution, engineering, administrative and protective measures for each hazard group in Sessions 2 and 3.
- ILO and WHO HealthWISE: Supplies participatory, action-oriented checklists for workplace improvement used in Sessions 2 and 4.
- WHO Safe Management of Wastes From Health-Care Activities: Frames waste segregation, handling and disposal decisions in Session 4.

Intended Participants

- Executives accountable for staff safety and facility risk across one or more hospitals.
- Leaders who set nursing, clinical support or operations policy affecting staff exposure.
- Heads of function responsible for facilities, engineering, fire and utilities in healthcare settings.
- Senior managers who report workforce safety performance to boards or governing bodies.



The programme serves public hospitals, private healthcare groups, specialist clinics and long-term care providers.

Learning Outcomes

1. Participants will be able to diagnose the main occupational and facility hazards in their healthcare setting.
2. Participants will be able to prioritise controls for each hazard group using the hierarchy of controls.
3. Participants will be able to evaluate arrangements for sharps, infection exposure, hazardous drugs and radiation.
4. Participants will be able to design measures against workplace violence, patient handling injuries and psychosocial strain.
5. Participants will be able to construct hazard surveillance and incident reporting for leaders.
6. Participants will be able to justify a healthcare workplace safety programme to executive and board colleagues.

Programme Structure

Day 1: Healthcare Workplace Safety as an Executive Duty

Why does health worker safety belong on the hospital executive agenda?

- WHO and ILO Health Worker Safety Programme Elements
- Links Between Staff Safety, Patient Safety and Quality
- Hazard Groups in Clinical and Support Areas
- Roles of Executives, Committees and Department Heads
- Hospital Safety Maturity Self-Assessment

Day 2: Biological and Chemical Hazards

How are infection, sharps and chemical exposures controlled at source?

- Hierarchy of Controls Applied to Clinical Exposure
- Sharps Injury Prevention and Safety-Engineered Devices
- Airborne and Bloodborne Exposure Management
- Hazardous Drugs, Disinfectants and Laboratory Chemicals
- HealthWISE Checklists for Ward Walk-Throughs

Day 3: Physical, Ergonomic and Psychosocial Hazards

Which hazards drive most lost time among health workers?



- Safe Patient Handling and Mobility Programmes
- Radiation Protection in Imaging and Theatres
- Workplace Violence Risk Assessment and De-Escalation
- Fatigue, Shift Work and Burnout Controls
- Slips, Trips and Falls in Clinical Areas

Day 4: Facility, Fire, Utilities and Waste

How does the building and its services stay safe for staff and patients?

- Fire Safety and Progressive Horizontal Evacuation
- Medical Gases, Electrical and Water Systems Safety
- Healthcare Waste Segregation and Disposal
- Contractor Work in Live Clinical Areas
- Hazard Surveillance and Incident Reporting Systems

Day 5: Applying Healthcare Workplace Safety Leadership

How are the controls combined into a programme ready for approval?

- Applying the Maturity Assessment to a Participant Hospital
- Ranking Hazards and Controls for Investment
- Designing a Safety Performance Dashboard
- Peer Challenge of Programme Priorities
- Healthcare Workplace Safety Programme Plan Presentation

Methodology

The programme relies on case analysis from hospitals, clinics and long-term care, combined with structured exercises on participants' own facilities. Participants apply hazard checklists to simulated wards, rank controls, analyse incident data and defend investment choices before peers.

- Suggested activity: Ranking controls for a cluster of needlestick injuries in an emergency department.
- Suggested activity: Reviewing violence incident data and drafting a de-escalation response plan.
- Suggested activity: Testing a ward fire evacuation plan against staffing levels at night.

Capstone Output

Each participant completes a healthcare workplace safety programme plan for their hospital or network. It contains a hazard profile, prioritised controls, roles and committee structure, surveillance and reporting arrangements, a performance dashboard and a phased action plan, ready for executive approval.



Frequently Asked Questions

Is healthcare workplace safety leadership training suitable for hospital executives?

Yes. It is designed for directors and heads of function who govern staff safety and facility risk. It assumes senior responsibility in a healthcare setting but no prior occupational safety qualification.

Which frameworks underpin healthcare workplace safety leadership in this programme?

It draws on the WHO and ILO guide on occupational health and safety programmes for health workers, the hierarchy of controls, ILO and WHO HealthWISE, and WHO guidance on the safe management of healthcare waste.

How is the healthcare workplace safety programme plan used at work?

It serves as the draft programme for your hospital or network, ready to table with the executive team and track through its dashboard.

How does healthcare workplace safety differ from a patient safety programme?

It focuses on protecting health workers and the facility from occupational hazards rather than on reducing clinical errors affecting patients.