

## Risk Assessments

A risk assessment is an important step in protecting your workers and your business, as well as complying with the law. A risk assessment is a process to examine what, in your work, could cause harm to people, so that appropriate measures can be put in place to reduce risks and prevent harm. The law does not expect all risk to be eliminated but employers must protect people as far as “reasonably practicable”.

The main piece of legislation regarding the provision of risk assessment is the Management of Health and Safety at Work Regulations 1999 that require employers to carry out risk assessments, make arrangements to implement necessary measures, appoint competent people and arrange for appropriate information and training.

A simple 5-step process for risk assessment is advocated by the Health and Safety Executive:

- 1) Identify the hazards
- 2) Decide who might be harmed and how
- 3) Evaluate the risks and decide on precautions
- 4) Record findings and implement them
- 5) Review assessment and update if necessary

Ensuring that risk assessments are in place and implemented is the employers' responsibility but InterHealth Occupational Health (OH) can provide professional advice and support to help ensure that you can fulfil your responsibilities.

### New and expectant mothers risk assessment

OH provides a paper-based assessment that the organisation undertakes to ensure there are no hazards in the workplace that may cause harm to the new or expectant mother and to meet legislative requirements.

### Display screen equipment (DSE) risk assessments

OH has a preferred supplier for DSE risk assessments and other DSE reviews to meet legislative requirements and when a DSE User requires special equipment for a new or existing health problem. The Supplier provides different types of assessments and further details are available on request.

A separate OH Consultation may also be helpful if an employee has on-going musculoskeletal problems in order to provide an OH opinion on fitness for work etc.