

Expanded Resource Handout for New Occupational Health Nurses (OHNs)

This handout provides key resources, organizations, tools, and workplace-specific guidance to help new Occupational Health Nurses succeed in their role. It includes both external professional resources and internal company practices that are critical for safe and effective occupational health nursing practice.

1. Key Professional Organizations

- American Association of Occupational Health Nurses (AAOHN): www.aaohn.org
- American College of Occupational and Environmental Medicine (ACOEM): www.acoem.org
- National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health (NIOSH): www.cdc.gov/niosh
- Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA): www.osha.gov
- Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) Workplace Health Promotion: www.cdc.gov/workplacehealthpromotion

2. Certification & Education Opportunities

- Certified Occupational Health Nurse (COHN/COHN-S) – via ABOHN (www.abohn.org)
- Case Management Certification – Commission for Case Manager Certification (www.ccmcertification.org)
- Continuing Education – AAOHN Learning Center & ACOEM educational offerings
- NIOSH Education and Research Centers – regional training and resources

3. Workplace-Specific Policies & Procedures

- Familiarize yourself with your company's occupational health and safety policies.
- Review company procedures for incident reporting, return-to-work evaluations, and workers' compensation.
- Understand confidentiality guidelines related to HIPAA and company privacy policies.
- Participate in periodic policy reviews and updates alongside HR and Safety teams.
- Collaborate with Safety and Environmental Health departments to align policies with OSHA/NIOSH guidelines.

4. Practical Tools & References

- OSHA Recordkeeping and Reporting Requirements (29 CFR 1904).
- CDC Adult Immunization Guidelines and workplace vaccination protocols.

- NIOSH Pocket Guide to Chemical Hazards (for quick reference to common exposures).
- Sample forms and templates: employee health records, incident reports, exposure documentation.
- OSHA/NIOSH guidelines on ergonomics, respiratory protection, and hearing conservation.

5. Emergency Response Protocols

- Know your company's emergency action plan (fire, chemical spill, natural disaster).
- Be trained in workplace-specific first aid, CPR, AED, and bloodborne pathogen exposure response.
- Maintain updated protocols for managing chemical/biological exposures.
- Collaborate with Safety team on disaster preparedness drills and training.
- Develop and maintain a go-to binder or digital file with emergency contacts, procedures, and reporting requirements.

6. Building Support & Networks

- Join your local AAOHN chapter for networking and mentorship.
- Participate in workplace safety and health committees.
- Connect with peers via AAOHN forums, LinkedIn groups, and professional webinars.
- Seek out an experienced OHN mentor within your organization or professional network.

A successful OHN blends external best practices with company-specific policies to promote worker health and safety. This resource guide is a foundation for building confidence, ensuring compliance, and fostering a safe, healthy workforce.