Working at Heights (Hospitals)

In hospitals, working at height happens during routine cleaning or maintenance in wards, corridors and patient rooms.

The challenge is keeping active clinical areas safe, with patients and equipment close by.

Primary Risks & Hazards to Spot



- **Falls from ladders while cleaning vents or fittings**
- **Overreaching or using unstable objects for extra height**



- **Slippery floors from cleaning products**
- **Blocked access routes and trip hazards**



- **Moving around patients or sensitive equipment**

Where might this happen in our work environment?



Wards: cleaning high vents or maintaining ceiling fittings near beds and clinical equipment.



Patient rooms: cleaning overhead fittings or maintaining vents close to patients and sensitive equipment.



Corridors: cleaning high vents or maintaining lights where people need clear, safe access.

Where else?

Where have you seen working at height hazards in your work area?

What can we check to protect?

1 Are we ready to start?

Inspect approved platform or podium ladders before use. Coordinate with clinical staff before work in patient areas.

2 Are people protected?

Use signage or spotters to keep patients and visitors out. Maintain 3 points of contact. Don't stretch or lean sideways.

3 Are conditions safe?

Keep floors dry and clear. Clean one section at a time. Never stand on medical or wheeled equipment.

What will you do today to stop a potential working at height incident from happening?

Social Infrastructure & Citizen Services

Your safety comes first

The SI&CS Health, Safety and Wellbeing Team is here to help.

You don’t have to work through a safety concern alone.

Ask for support when:

You’re unsure

We can help you understand a hazard and discuss a safer way to work.

Something happens

We can help with hazard, incident and near-miss reporting and next steps.

You need support

We can work with you and your supervisor or manager to address health, safety and wellbeing concerns.

Do you know who your HSW Business Partner is?

Stop if the work is unsafe

Pause the task and move to a safe place. Speak up if something feels unsafe or you are unsure.

Notify your supervisor or manager

Report hazards, incidents and near misses promptly, even if no one is hurt. Explain what happened, where it is and who may be at risk.

Do not continue unsafe work

Keep the task stopped until the risk is addressed and your supervisor or manager confirms a safe way forward. Ask for help if you are unsure.