

# CAUSALITY CHART

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<b><i>STEPS IN CAUSALITY DETERMINATION</i></b>	
1.	<b>Establish diagnosis (or differential diagnosis if further testing required)</b>
2.	<b>Define Injury or Exposure</b>  For Exposures include <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>❖ Length of exposure</li> <li>❖ Level of exposure (actual lifting required, amount of repetitive motion, special tool use, etc.)</li> <li>❖ Comparison of workers' exposure to that of the normal population</li> </ul>
3.	<b>Discuss Intervening Factors</b>  Concurrent non-work-related injuries or disease processes, pre-existing impairment, or disease related activities outside of work, sports, hobbies, etc.
4.	<b>Explain any scientific evidence supporting a cause and effect relationship between the diagnosis and the exposure or injury</b>
5.	<b>Assign a medical probability level to the case in question</b>  <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>❖ Medically probable &gt;50% likely</li> <li>❖ Medically possible ≤ 50 likely</li> </ul>

## Summary Of NIOSH Reviews\*

Table 1. Evidence for casual relationship between physical work factors and MSDs

Body part <i>Risk factor</i>	Strong Evidence (+++)	Evidence (++)	Insufficient evidence (+/0)	Evidence of no effect (-)
<b>Neck and Neck/Shoulder</b>				
<i>Repetition</i> _____		X		
<i>Force</i> _____		X		
<i>Posture</i> _____	X			
<i>Vibration</i> _____			X	
<b>Shoulder</b>				
<i>Posture</i> _____		X		
<i>Force</i> _____			X	
<i>Repetition</i> _____		X		
<i>Vibration</i> _____			X	
<b>Elbow</b>				
<i>Repetition</i> _____			X	
<i>Force</i> _____		X		
<i>Posture</i> _____			X	
<i>Combination</i> _____	X			
<b>Hand/wrist</b>				
Carpal tunnel syndrome				
<i>Repetition</i> _____		X		
<i>Force</i> _____		X		
<i>Posture</i> _____			X	
<i>Vibration</i> _____		X		
<i>Combination</i> _____	X			
Tendinitis				
<i>Repetition</i> _____		X		
<i>Force</i> _____		X		
<i>Posture</i> _____		X		
<i>Combination</i> _____	X			
Hand-arm vibration syndrome				
<i>Vibration</i> _____	X			
<b>Back</b>				
<i>Lifting/forceful movement</i> _____	X			
<i>Awkward posture</i> _____		X		
<i>Heavy physical work</i> _____		X		
<i>Whole body vibration</i> _____	X			
<i>Static work posture</i> _____			X	

\*Musculoskeletal Disorders And Workplace Factors A Critical Review of Epidemiologic Evidence for Work-Related Musculoskeletal Disorders of the Neck, Upper Extremity, and Low Back Edited by: Bruce P. Bernard, M.D., M.P.H.; U.S. Department Of Health And Human Services; Public Health Service Centers for Disease Control and Prevention National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health, July 1997