

# CoolPac® Esky Work Health & Safety

## KEY MESSAGE:

Ensure appropriate Work Health & Safety Processes, including the use of mechanical aids when handling CoolPac® eskies

## Background/Purpose

Most jobs involve carrying out some type of manual task using the body to move or hold a variety of objects. Manual tasks cover a wide range of activities with some tasks having potential to cause musculoskeletal disorders (MSD). These are the most common workplace injuries across Australia<sup>1</sup>.

Northern Territory (NT) Hospitals send out vaccines to approximately 70 remote communities across the NT, and has committed to improving the vaccine program through the use of CoolPac® transport containers.

The handling of CoolPacs®, particularly when fully loaded, have the characteristics of a hazardous manual task requiring movement of heavy loads. CoolPacs® can be bulky in dimensions and vary in weight e.g., standard CoolPac45®s weigh approximately 18kg and when fully loaded weigh approximately 23kg<sup>2,3</sup> with outer dimension of 511 x 416 x 496mm.

## Recommendations

- The manual handling tasks for loading and off-loading of CoolPac® eskies, medical equipment and/or food items is to be undertaken by x2 workers at all times, following safe handling principles.
- Ensure safe manual handling principles are used including: Keeping back straight, no twisting/reaching while lifting & consider stretches prior to lifting
- Ensure all staff are up to date with manual handling training requirements
- Each health centre is to have the suitable equipment available to assist in the handling of these packs.
- Suitable trolleys (foldable with 100kg load capacity) are to be utilized to handle CoolPac® eskies with each health centre purchasing and utilizing these manual handling aids.
- Ensure staff are orientated in trolley use to prevent minor injuries in operating foldable trolley eg watch fingers when unfolding, loading of trolley and use of strap to secure load.
- Where possible, Pharmacy will consider the feasibility of transporting medication in smaller CoolPac® eskies to decrease manual handling risk to staff.

## Contact

For further details or queries please contact your local NT hospital pharmacy department (call the hospital phone number and ask to be transferred to the pharmacy department) or your work health and safety officer.

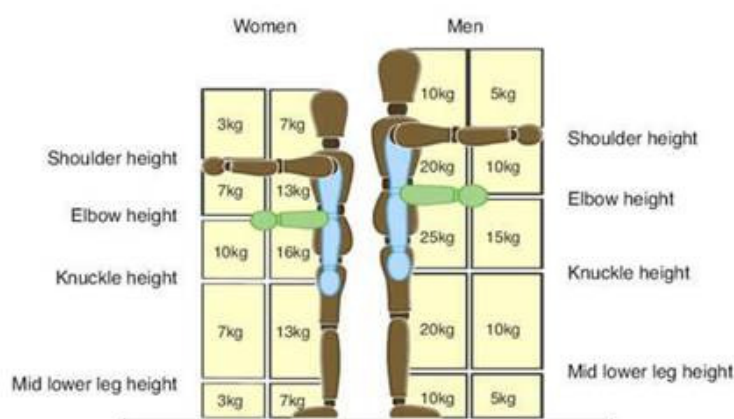


Figure 1: obtained from NT Health WHS unit

<sup>1</sup> SAFE WORK Australia, 2018 - [Model Code of Practice: Hazardous manual tasks](#)

<sup>2</sup> NT Best Practice Reference Working Group Referral PPHC Remote Form v3.0 Jan 2022

<sup>3</sup> Risk Management Process for loading & unloading of Coolpacs for Medical Supplies – Hazardous manual task identification worksheet 2022