

## **The Prevalence of Chronic Musculoskeletal Pain and Associated Occupational Risk Factors at uMhlathuze Local Municipality Community Service Department**

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### ***Abstract***

**Background:** *Chronic musculoskeletal pain is a global problem with various occupational activities being associated with reports of chronic pain.*

**Aim:** *The aim of the study is to identify the prevalence of chronic musculoskeletal pain and the associated occupational risk factors among the uMhlathuze Municipal employees (uMhlathuze Local Municipality is an administrative area in the King Cetshwayo District Municipality of KwaZulu-Natal in South Africa. The municipality is named after the Mhlathuze River).*

**Method:** *A cross-sectional survey of a sample of employees from the Community Service department of the municipality will be conducted. A detailed interview questionnaire based on the standard Nordic ergonomic questionnaire will be used. It will focus on the prevalence of chronic musculoskeletal pain, individual, physical, psychosocial factors, and symptoms in the previous year. Descriptive, bivariate and multivariable logistic regression analysis will be conducted using STATA 13 (Most of its users work in research, especially in the fields of economics, sociology, political science, biomedicine and epidemiology).*

**Conclusion:** *The prevalence and factors associated with chronic musculoskeletal pain in this study population will be reported.*

**Keywords:** *Musculoskeletal pain; Occupational risk factors; Municipal employees.*