

Miller, Diane M. (CDC/NIOSH/EID)

From: Jones, Jennifer [Jennifer.Jones@cardinalhealth.com]
Sent: Friday, March 21, 2008 4:54 PM
To: NIOSH Docket Office (CDC)
Subject: 129 - NIOSH/NPPTL Draft Health Care Workers

Good Afternoon,

Thank you for the opportunity to review and provide comments on your action plan for Health Care workers. As a manufacturer of health care products, especially those geared towards protecting health care workers, your path forward in this space is extremely important to our organization. Our health care workers are trained to be selfless to the point where oftentimes they put their own health and safety at risk. It is up to us, NPPTL as a part of NIOSH and Cardinal Health as a manufacturer, to ensure that we are creating and regulating products that will provide the health care worker the highest level of protection possible. I am very excited about the focus your group is given to this industry and look forward to the future developments that will continue to unfold as a result of your focus on this industry.

To aid in your review of my comments, I will provide them based on the section of your report.

- Lines 57-65: True indeed medical face masks do not provide the same level of protection as a N95, but the reality is that nine times out of ten our healthcare workers are choosing a surgical or procedure mask in lieu of an N95. They are relying on these products to provide the protection they need for the majority of the things they are exposed to. Although they are not deemed personal protective equipment by this group, they are looked at as such by the end user. I challenge this group to reconsider the position taken on medical face masks or work to change the regulations to ensure that an N95 is chosen every time a mask is needed.
- Lines 508-516: I, again, challenge your group to expand your definition of PPT to include medical face masks. If they aren't providing the protection today that warrants their inclusion in that category then we need to create new product requirements that translate into their being included into PPT and manufacturers need to adjust accordingly.
- Lines 555-559: The standard test methods used to clear medical face masks still warrant an assessment by your group. Especially, to audit whether or not they speak to actual in use performance.

Humbly Submitted,

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