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Correction

Recommendations for Preventing the Spread of Vancomycin Resistance

It has come to our attention that an organism was cited incorrectly in the Special Report "Recommendations for Preventing the Spread of Vancomycin Resistance" (1995;16:105-113). On page 106, column 1, paragraph 1, the last sentence should read, "Although vancomycin resistance in clinical strains of *S epidermidis* or *S aureus* has not been reported, vancomycin-resistant strains of *Staphylococcus haemolyticus* have been isolated."

NIOSH to Issue User Guidelines

by Gina Pugliese, RN, MS
Medical News Editor

The National Institute of Occupational Safety and Health (NIOSH) recently developed a draft user's guideline to assist with selection of the new nonpowered particulate filter respirators that will be certified under NIOSH's recently revised testing and certification procedures. These revised procedures, contained in 42 CFR 84, introduced three new classes (N-, R-, and P-series) of particulate filters for respirators and replaced the old regulations under 30 CFR 11. Each class may have filters certified at 95%, 99%, and 99.97%, for a total of nine classes of air-purifying particulate respirators. These new filter types eventually will replace the dust-mist, dust-mist-fume, high-efficiency, and other types of particulate filters. Manufacturers of respirators certified under the old regulations (30 CFR 11) will be allowed to sell them until July 1998. The NIOSH user's guidelines will help respirator purchasers, users, and program managers to determine which of the new filter types to use in different work environments. NIOSH jointly sponsored an open meeting on July 10-12, 1995, with the American Industrial Hygiene Association to receive comments on the draft user's guidelines. Comments were requested on a number of topics, including the duration of use and reuse of respirators.

How will all this affect TB respirators? These long-awaited revised certification procedures will allow users to select from a large universe of certified respirators that meet the CDC performance criteria for respiratory protection devices used in healthcare facilities for protection against tuberculosis. According to the NIOSH draft user's guideline, "all nine classes of air-purifying particulate respirators" certified under NIOSH's revised procedures (42 CFR 84) "will meet or exceed CDC requirements for TB, and several of these respirators will be less expensive and more comfortable than the HEPA filter respirators."

FROM: Department of Health and Human Services. NIOSH announces workshop in user's guideline for Part 84 nonpowered air-purifying particulate respirators. *Federal Register.* June 30, 1995; vol 60 (126) p 34385.