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Workshop on Respiratory Protection for Airborne Infectious Agents
Atlanta, Georgia
November 30-December 1, 2004

Breakout Summary Report

Questions Related to

Plenary Session 5

DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES
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Breakout Summary Report
Questions Related to Plenary Session 5

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#1--PLENARY SESSION 5: Regulatory Perspectives and Outlook

- *What are the research issues with respect to implementing respiratory protection programs?*

Research Issues to Implement Respiratory Protection Programs

- Identify and quantify the risk relative to personnel
- End points of research have to be clinically tied to transmission
- Behavior and training
- Frequency of fit testing
- Protocols/models for assessing engineering controls
- Research design should address situational context (visitors, emergency use, routine use)

#2--PLENARY SESSION 5: Regulatory Perspectives and Outlook

- *CEN (European-certified respirators): Can CEN-certified respirators be used in the US? What do we do during the next N95 shortage? What if my employees fit better with a CEN-approved respirator?*

Non-NIOSH Certified Respirator Use

- Two perspectives: regulatory and performance
- Conduct an analysis of comparability of performance tests
- Consider prospective mechanism to evaluate broader set of respirators for emergency use
- International harmonization of standards
- Enhanced communications of decision logic

#3--PLENARY SESSION 5: Regulatory Perspectives and Outlook

What is the scientific basis for limiting use of N95s to one shift or less while CDC/NIOSH document (DHHS/NIOSH Pub No. 96-101) says that, other than in high (200 mg) loading situations, their service life is limited by considerations of hygiene, damage, and breathing resistance? Does this apply equally to all airborne infectious agents?

Scientific Basis of Duration of Use and Reuse

- Need for research:
  - Viability of agents on respirators
  - Biocidal treatment of filtering face pieces
  - Structural integrity of respirators for reuse
- TB infrastructure vs. next unknown agent

#4--PLENARY SESSION 5: Regulatory Perspectives and Outlook

- *For those who run respiratory protection programs:*
  - If you need to operate a respiratory protection program for non-infectious agents (e.g.., potential exposures to toxic dusts and/or chemicals) is there a difference in the programs needed for toxic dusts and chemicals compared to infectious agents?
  - Is there a difference in the scope (i.e., number of employees and resources necessary) of the program? Besides complying with current OSHA regulations, what are the benefits of comprehensive respiratory protection programs?
  - What is the cost and cost effectiveness of respiratory protection programs?
  - How should respiratory protection programs address respiratory protection for the general public (visitors, volunteers, etc.) who may be exposed to airborne infectious agents.

Value of Respiratory Protection Programs

- In the context of hierarchy of controls
- Based on the need & hazard analysis
- Critical to project credible value to the user of respiratory protection
- Need for research on motivating users to effectively utilize respirators