

Draft Recommendations Say Flu Vaccination Is ‘Duty of Care’

A federal advisory committee is expected to vote this month on draft recommendations asserting that influenza vaccination of health care personnel is a “duty of care” and advising facilities that fail to achieve a 90 percent vaccination rate using voluntary strategies to “strongly consider” mandatory programs. The draft recommendations, which are scheduled to be voted on by the National Vaccine Advisory Committee, were prepared by a subgroup of the NVAC Adult Immunization Working Group. The Department of Health and Human Services published a notice of the draft report, *Recommendations on Strategies to Achieve the Healthy People 2020 Annual Goal of 90% Influenza Vaccine Coverage for Health Care Personnel*, with a request for written comment in the *Federal Register*. **Page 3**

Court Upholds Multi-employer Citation for Electrical Hazard

A federal appeals court has rejected an employer’s claim that the U.S. Occupational Safety and Health Administration’s multi-employer citation policy violates both the Administrative Procedure Act and the Occupational Safety and Health Act (*Summit Contractors Inc. v. Secretary of Labor*, D.C. Cir., No. 10-1329, Dec. 14, 2011). The employer, Summit Contractors Inc., was cited after an OSHA inspector found that a portable generator and “spider box” — a receptacle with plugs for electrical tools — at an apartment complex where Summit was working lacked a ground fault circuit interrupter. Summit, which had rented the unprotected equipment, was cited even though the equipment was used only by a subcontractor’s employees. **Page 2**

Guidance on Flu Outbreaks in LTC Covers Residents, Staff and Visitors

Recently posted guidance on managing influenza outbreaks in long-term care facilities emphasizes the need to prevent, identify and treat influenza in both residents and staff, and to be alert to signs of influenza in visitors, too. The guidance, *Influenza Outbreak Management in Long-Term Care Facilities*, posted on the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention’s website, details the steps nursing homes, skilled nursing facilities and other institutions that provide health, custodial or rehabilitative care to dependent individuals should take to identify, prevent and control outbreaks, even when cases occur outside the normal influenza season. The guidance includes recommendations for vaccination, surveillance and treatment of infected or potentially exposed health care personnel. **Page 5**

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Update Pages

- Tab 900, Recordkeeping, is updated with recent OSHA interpretations.

Laboratory Safety

New Guidance for Diagnostic Labs

Guidelines for safe work practices in medical diagnostic laboratories were published by CDC in a Jan. 6 supplement to the *Morbidity and Mortality Weekly Report*.

The guidelines are intended to augment CDC’s *Biosafety in Microbiological and Biomedical Laboratories, Fifth Edition*, by addressing the day-to-day operational needs of diagnostic laboratories. Members of a 2008 Blue Ribbon Panel recommended that CDC develop the science-based guidelines, which include a sample job safety analysis form.

The new *Guidelines for Safe Work Practices in Human and Animal Medical Diagnostic Laboratories* can be accessed online at <http://www.cdc.gov/mmwr>.

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