

**MATTERS TO BE CONSIDERED:**

1. Personnel actions (appointments, promotions, assignments, reassignments, and salary actions) involving individual Federal Reserve System employees.

2. Any items carried forward from a previously announced meeting.

**CONTACT PERSON FOR MORE INFORMATION:**

Mr. Joseph R. Coyne, Assistant to the Board; (202) 452-3204. You may call (202) 452-3207, beginning at approximately 5 p.m. two business days before this meeting, for a recorded announcement of bank and bank holding company applications scheduled for the meeting.

Dated: December 13, 1996.

Jennifer J. Johnson,

*Deputy Secretary of the Board.*

[FR Doc. 96-32065 Filed 12-13-96; 10:27 am]

BILLING CODE 6210-01-P

**Sunshine Act Meeting**

**AGENCY HOLDING THE MEETING:** Board of Governors of the Federal Reserve System.

**TIME AND DATE:** 10:00 a.m., Friday, December 20, 1996.

**PLACE:** Marriner S. Eccles Federal Reserve Board Building, C Street entrance between 20th and 21st Streets, N.W., Washington, D.C. 20551.

**STATUS:** Open.

**MATTERS TO BE CONSIDERED:***Summary Agenda*

Because of its routine nature, no discussion of the following item is anticipated. This matter will be voted on without discussion unless a member of the Board requests that the item be moved to the discussion agenda.

1. Publication for comment of proposed revisions to Regulation B (Equal Credit Opportunity) to implement amendments to the Equal Credit Opportunity Act regarding "self-testing."

*Discussion Agenda*

2. Proposal to increase the limitation on the amount of revenue derived from underwriting and dealing in bank-ineligible securities by section 20 subsidiaries of bank holding companies (proposed earlier for public comment; Docket No. R-0841).

3. Proposed amendment to Regulation B (Equal Credit Opportunity) regarding data collection on all types of credit (proposed earlier for public comment; Docket No. R-0876).

4. Any items carried forward from a previously announced meeting.

Note: This meeting will be recorded for the benefit of those unable to attend. Cassettes will be available for listening in the Board's Freedom of Information Office, and copies may be ordered for \$5 per cassette by calling (202) 452-3684 or by writing to: Freedom of Information Office, Board of Governors of the

Federal Reserve System, Washington, D.C. 20551.

**CONTACT PERSON FOR MORE INFORMATION:** Mr. Joseph R. Coyne, Assistant to the Board; (202) 452-3204.

Dated: December 13, 1996.

Jennifer J. Johnson,

*Deputy Secretary of the Board.*

[FR Doc. 96-32066 Filed 12-13-96; 10:27 am]

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**DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES****Centers for Disease Control and Prevention****National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health; Request for Comments on the Proposed NIOSH Document on Guidelines for Protecting the Safety and Health of Health Care Workers**

**AGENCY:** National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health (NIOSH), Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), Department of Health and Human Services.

**ACTION:** Request for comments.

**SUMMARY:** NIOSH requests comments concerning the updating of the 1988 NIOSH document, Guidelines for Protecting the Safety and Health of Health Care Workers (NIOSH Publication No. 88-119<sup>1</sup>).

**DATES:** Written comments to this notice should be submitted to Diane Manning, NIOSH Docket Office, 4676 Columbia Parkway, Mailstop C-34, Cincinnati, Ohio 45226. Comments or data may be submitted on the following topics (but are not limited to these): (1) Target audience, (2) format, (3) content, and (4) methods of distribution. Comments must be received on or before February 18, 1997. Comments may also be faxed to Diane Manning at (513) 533-8285 or submitted by email to: dmm2@NIOSDT1.em.cdc.gov as WordPerfect 5.0, 5.1/5.2, 6.0/6.1, or ASCII files.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Technical information may be obtained from John J. Whalen, NIOSH, CDC, 4676 Columbia Parkway, Mailstop C-14, Cincinnati, Ohio 45226, telephone (513) 533-8270.

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:** Pursuant to Sections 20 and 22 of the Occupational Safety and Health Act of

<sup>1</sup>This publication (NTIS Publication No. PB-89-148621) is available from the National Technical Information Service (NTIS), 5285 Port Royal Road, Springfield, VA 22161, telephone (703) 487-4650.

1970 (29 U.S.C. 669 and 671), NIOSH is authorized to gather information and develop recommendations for improving occupational safety and health.

More than 8 million health care workers are employed in the United States, and they constitute about 6 percent of the entire workforce. These workers represent many different occupations and are found in a wide variety of work settings.

Since health care workers have very diverse functions and duties, they are exposed to many hazards. These hazards include radiation, toxic chemicals, biological agents, ergonomic stressors, violence, stress, and physical hazards such as heat and noise.

Few workplaces are as complex as hospitals, where more than 50 percent of health care workers are employed. The number and types of hazards in hospitals are extremely large. For example, maintenance workers may be exposed to solvents, asbestos, and electrical hazards. Housekeepers are exposed to detergents and disinfectants that can cause skin rashes and eye and throat irritation. Also, housekeepers may be exposed to infectious diseases such as hepatitis or acquired immunodeficiency syndrome (AIDS) from hypodermic needles that have not been properly discarded. Nurses confront such potential hazards as exposure to infectious diseases and toxic substances, back injuries, radiation exposure, and stress.

In 1988, NIOSH published the Guidelines for Protecting the Safety and Health of Health Care Workers. However, since that time, knowledge concerning these hazards has increased, and additional recommendations have been made. For example, CDC recommendations for protecting health care workers from tuberculosis and AIDS have changed significantly, as have NIOSH recommendations concerning relevant respiratory protection.

NIOSH is aware that a number of directions can be taken to update the document; therefore, a draft document outline and list of issues have been prepared by CDC to ascertain the appropriateness of the proposed document content and format. NIOSH is soliciting comments on the document outline provided below:

**I. Document Outline**

Foreword  
Abstract  
Contents  
Abbreviations  
Acknowledgments  
Introduction

Overview of Health Care Industry  
 Overview of Hazards  
 Development of Occupational Safety and Health Programs  
 Administrative support  
 Employee involvement  
 Health and safety committee  
 Multidisciplinary team approach  
 Medical surveillance program  
 Rehabilitation  
 Legal and ethical considerations  
 Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA)  
 Worksite analysis  
 Literature review  
 Identification of hazard categories  
 Worksite survey  
 Hazard analysis  
 Exposure monitoring (biological and environmental)  
 Safety and health training  
 Program review and evaluation  
 Development of emergency plans

#### Hazards

Hazardous agents  
 Biological agents  
 Chemical agents  
 Disinfectants and sterilants  
 Antibiotics  
 Hormones  
 Antineoplastics  
 Waste anesthetic gases  
 Latex (allergy)  
 Aerosolized medications (e.g., ribavirin)  
 Hazardous waste  
 Physical hazards  
 Compressed gases and chemicals (toxic, reactive, corrosive, or flammable properties)  
 Extreme temperatures (e.g., burns caused by cryogenic compounds such as dry ice or liquid nitrogen, or burns caused by the use of autoclaves or incinerators for sterilization)  
 Mechanical (e.g., lacerations, punctures, and abrasions)  
 Electrical  
 Radiation (ionizing and nonionizing)  
 Noise  
 Violence  
 Slips and falls  
 Ergonomic hazards  
 Lifting (strains or back injuries)  
 Standing (for long periods of time)  
 Poor lighting (eye strain)  
 Psychological hazards  
 Job specialization  
 Discrimination  
 Ergonomic factors  
 Technological changes  
 Work schedules (e.g., shift work, leave policies)  
 Downsizing  
 Violence  
 Staff/patient ratios and occupational mix

Each of the major hazard categories identified above will be divided into the following subsections:

- a. Explanation of the hazard
- b. Occupations at risk
- c. Locations in the health care facility where the hazard may occur
- d. Discussion of relevant regulations
- e. Discussion of controls that are specific for the hazard that will not

otherwise be covered in the general control technology chapter

f. Additional resources (e.g., relevant literature, World Wide Web (www) sites).

Control Technology—General  
 Directory of Occupational Safety and Health Information for Health Care Workers

Appendices

a. Publications relevant to controlling infectious agents in the health care environment

b. Occupational hazards by location

c. Chemicals encountered in selected health care occupations

d. Annotated bibliography

Index

#### II. Issues

The draft outline provided above assumes that each chapter or section of the updated document will be developed by an expert in the area. Many of these experts will come from CDC but outside experts will also be utilized. To ensure that the information in the document is appropriate and reaches the target audiences, there are several issues which should be considered by commentators:

a. The 1988 Guidelines discussed only hazards associated with hospitals (not other health care settings such as nursing homes or drug treatment centers). It is assumed that information that is relevant for hospitals is also relevant for other health care facilities. The issue is whether information (e.g., reports of hazards) about health care facilities other than hospitals should be included in the revised guidelines, if available.

b. The draft format is based on the type of hazard (e.g., physical, ergonomic, and chemical). The issue is whether this is the best approach or if another format (e.g., presenting hazards by job task or occupation) would be better. Another issue involving the format structure is whether suggested chapters should be deleted or additional chapters included.

c. The development of small documents for different health care settings (e.g., biomedical laboratory, nursing home, home care, etc.) or occupations (e.g., nursing aids, radiological technicians, pharmacists) would be useful. The issue is whether or not these smaller documents should be done in place of one larger, all inclusive document as outlined above or in addition to this document.

d. The potential users of the health care worker guidelines include occupational physicians, administrators of health care facilities, nurses, engineers, nursing aides, safety

professionals, industrial hygienists, and safety and health committees. The issue is whether the language and content should be targeted to specific occupations.

e. Information and recommendations applicable to controlling hazards in the health care industry change on a regular basis. There are a number of mechanisms that can be utilized to update this information such as providing "updates" on a website (e.g., as a subsection of the Institute's www site on the internet) and/or providing the information on a CD-ROM that is updated on a regular basis. The issue is what is the best mechanism(s) for reaching each intended audience(s).

Dated: December 2, 1996.

William E. Halperin,

*Acting Director, National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC)*

[FR Doc. 96-31949 Filed 12-16-96; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4163-19-P

#### Food and Drug Administration

[Docket No. 96M-0471]

#### **Bartels Prognostics, Inc.; Premarket Approval of Bartels ChemoResponse Assay**

**AGENCY:** Food and Drug Administration, HHS.

**ACTION:** Notice.

**SUMMARY:** The Food and Drug Administration (FDA) is announcing its approval of the application by Bartels Prognostics, Inc., Issaquah, WA, for premarket approval, under the Federal Food, Drug, and Cosmetic Act (the act), of Bartels ChemoResponse Assay. After reviewing the recommendation of the Microbiology Devices Panel, FDA's Center for Devices and Radiological Health (CDRH) notified the applicant, by letter of August 1, 1996, of the approval of the application.

**DATES:** Petitions for administrative review by January 16, 1997.

**ADDRESSES:** Written requests for copies of the summary of safety and effectiveness data and petitions for administrative review to the Dockets Management Branch (HFA-305), Food and Drug Administration, 12420 Parklawn Dr., rm. 1-23, Rockville, MD 20857.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Sharon L. Hansen, Center for Devices and Radiological Health (HFZ-440), Food and Drug Administration, 9200 Corporate Blvd., Rockville, MD 20850, 301-594-1293.