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Development of a Hospital Respiratory Protection Program National Toolkit

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An evaluation of respiratory protection programs (RPPs) and practices conducted during the 2009-2010 H1N1 influenza pandemic in 16 California hospitals identified the need for information and educational resources tailored for respirator program administrators. An earlier project supported by NIOSH-NPPTL collected available resources, and developed and pilot tested a California-specific Hospital Respiratory Protection Program Toolkit based on the requirements of the Cal/OSHA aerosol transmissible diseases (ATD) standard.

This presentation describes the adaptation of the California-specific Toolkit into a national version to be released as a web-based NIOSH-OSHA co-branded educational material. This effort involved input from a range of stakeholders and consideration of newer available scientific literature and experience with current, post-H1N1 hospital use of respiratory protection. In the absence of a national occupational standard specific to ATDs, this document summarizes respiratory protection selection guidance based on the Healthcare Infection Control Practices Advisory Committee (HICPAC) 2007 Guideline and other public health sources. The key audience is hospital RPP administrators, particularly those without industrial hygiene backgrounds. The Toolkit includes step-by-step information on implementing a comprehensive RPP for ATDs, links to numerous other web-based resources, a program evaluation checklist, and customizable written RPP template. Participants' ideas will be solicited for best approaches to advertise and disseminate the Toolkit.