

**Miller, Diane M. (CDC/NIOSH/EID)**

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**From:** McKinney, Beth [Beth.McKinney@montgomerycountymd.gov]  
**Sent:** Wednesday, May 14, 2008 2:08 PM  
**To:** NIOSH Docket Office (CDC)  
**Subject:** 135 - NIOSH Healthcare Workers Survey

To Whom It May Concern:

A request to review and comment on your training modules was posted on the American Dental Hygiene Association's website. As a public health dental hygienist with responsibilities in the area of infection control, I was very interested in looking at your surveys. I am sending the following comments for use as you see fit. I reviewed only Module A for Core Workers.

I found the module to be comprehensive, well-designed and easily understood. The module flowed well and was easy to complete. It is long and did take me about a half an hour to finish. I have the following suggestions, most of which are small typos in the document.

Question 34: if the answer is zero, it should say "skip TO question 37". You omitted the word "to" making it sound as if you want people to skip answering question 37.

Question 37: This question is worded poorly for those of us in the dental field. After reading the first few items on the list, "bed pans, sheets, clothing" we are tempted not to read the rest of the question and answer no, when the correct answer for dental personnel is yes. Could you reword the question to say something like, "...do you handle contaminated materials (e.g. gauze, sheets, etc) that are visibly soiled with blood..."? I would also suggest adding the word "saliva" to the end of the question, i.e. "blood, saliva, urine,..." In dentistry saliva is still considered an infectious body fluid.

Question 50: answer f needs a parenthesis at the end.

Question 69: Since this question immediately follows the ones about ethnicity, does it apply to education in other countries? If so, does it apply only to high school or to professional programs as well? There are many foreign trained dentists and physicians who cannot practice in the U.S. and are working in lesser capacities. You not get the data you want if they are misinterpreting this question.

I would really like to see a Module K for Dental Personnel. I believe that, while the core module is very comprehensive, it does not do adequate justice to the unique environment in which dental personnel work. We encounter a variety of potential hazards in our daily work settings including, x-ray chemicals, ionizing radiation, mid-level disinfectant chemicals, phosphoric acid, mercury, moving heavy dental equipment, extracted teeth containing amalgam fillings, lead containing crowns made in China, lack of a functional safer dental needle, aerosolized sprays containing pathogens and medicaments, nitrous oxide gas, electrosurgery devices, lasers, and wet floors. I think developing a separate module for dentistry would be a prudent endeavor on your part. I urge you to consider it.

I hope these comments have not been too cumbersome. I appreciate being given the opportunity to review your materials; and I believe the core module is excellent. If I can be of any assistance in the development of a module for dental personnel, please feel free to contact me.

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