

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

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**From:**  
**Sent:** Wednesday, October 31, 2007 10:12 AM  
**To:** Miller, Diane M. (CDC/NIOSH/EID)  
**Subject:** NIOSH-114  
**Attachments:** NIOSH document review.doc

Attached is my review of the NIOSH Draft Document "Occupational Hazards in Home Health Care."  
I have completed the Peer Reviewer Conflict of Interest Form. Do I fax or mail this form? It was unclear in the letter. Please advise.

Thank you for the opportunity to review this document.  
<<NIOSH document review.doc>>

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Overall, I think this is a well-written document that addresses key issues regarding occupational hazards for workers in home health care. I appreciate that it addresses the well-accepted risks (i.e. bloodborne pathogens) as well as risks that are talked about and acknowledge by home health staff but less likely to be addressed formally in home care agencies (e.g. stresses, pets, presence of weapons/drugs). It is a well organized and referenced document. I believe that the references support the recommendations. I have a few specific comments:

- On the first page in the foreword, in the first paragraph addressing services provided in home health care, "administering oral medications" is listed. I believe that this statement should be expanded to include intravenous and other parenteral medications. Safety risks are increased with these routes and it is common practice to administer parenteral medications.
- On page 10, first bullet point. I don't know how realistic it is to expect families to adjust their beds to be raised on a frame or platform.
- Page 18. The first picture does not appear to be a home situation. I rarely see bathrooms big enough to handle equipment of that size.
- Page 67. I agree that cell phones should be standard equipment for home health care workers. Will be a cost issue for many agencies.
- Page 77. Under Workers section. I think it should be added that if the abuser does not stop the conversation, that the employee should leave the premises, in addition to notifying their employer.
- Page 83. Under employer section under Automobile Use. I do not think it is realistic for employers to provide vehicles with the highest occupant protection. Home health employees most often drive their own vehicles. Perhaps employees could be encouraged to purchase vehicles with high safety ratings.
- Page 84. Under top section Workers. In addition to "purchasing detailed maps...", add purchase/utilize GPS system in the car.