

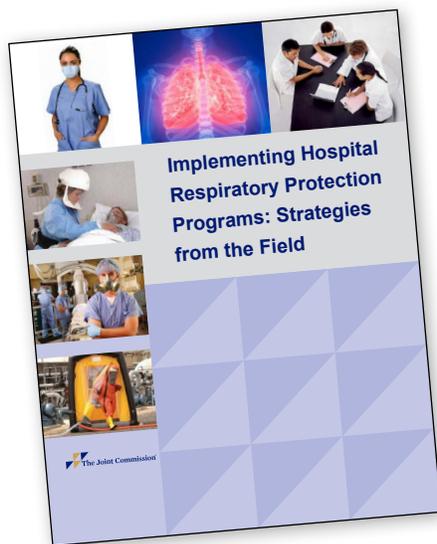
New Online Publications Focus on Respiratory Protection for Health Care Workers

The Joint Commission co-releases free monograph; OSHA, NIOSH release free toolkit

The Joint Commission recently released a free online monograph designed to assist hospitals in creating, implementing, and sustaining their respiratory protection programs (RPPs). A collaboration between The Joint Commission and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC)/National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health (NIOSH)/National Personal Protective Technology Laboratory (NPPTL), *Implementing Hospital Respiratory Protection Programs: Strategies from the Field* underscores the importance of protecting health care workers from exposure to respiratory hazards such as airborne pathogens, surgical smoke, and antineoplastic drugs.

“Respiratory protection programs enhance safety for both workers and patients, but there are many common challenges associated with their implementation,” said Ana McKee, MD, executive vice president and chief medical officer, The Joint Commission. “We hope that by showcasing the innovative and effective strategies used by health care organizations across the country to overcome these challenges, hospitals can learn from one another as they implement and improve their own respiratory protection programs.”

Implementing Hospital Respiratory Protection Programs: Strategies from the Field, which is available on The Joint Commission website, features examples, strategies, new resources, and a variety of implementation approaches solicited from the field and vetted through an eight-member technical expert panel



The Joint Commission publication.

(TEP). Intended for those who administer and implement organizationwide respiratory protection programs in acute care and specialty hospitals, the monograph may also be useful in settings such as nursing homes and home care organizations.

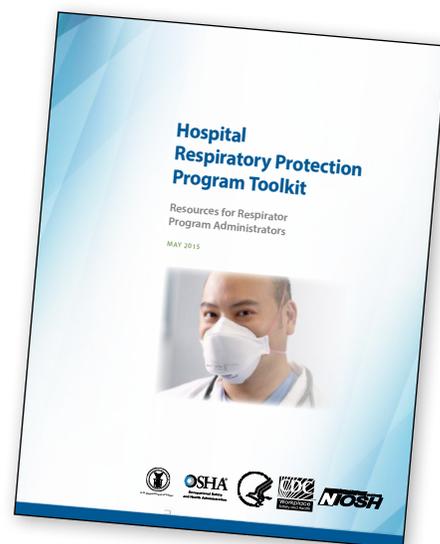
Implementing Hospital Respiratory Protection Programs: Strategies from the Field is part of a cluster of research activities spearheaded by CDC/NIOSH/NPPTL around respiratory protection programs. It is intended to be a companion document to other CDC/NIOSH/NPPTL respiratory protection publications.

The OSHA/NIOSH publication

The Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) and NIOSH have recently developed such a companion publication, titled *Hospital Respiratory Protection Toolkit: Resources for Respirator Program Administrators*. This free online toolkit identifies reasons for implementing respiratory protection programs,

explains the functions of air-purifying and air-supplying respirators, describes how to perform hazard evaluations, and provides guidance on how to develop policies and procedures for written programs. In addition, it provides links to a variety of references and resources. *The Hospital Respiratory Protection Program Toolkit* is available at <https://www.osha.gov/Publications/OSHA3767.pdf>.

The monograph *Implementing Hospital Respiratory Protection Programs: Strategies from the Field* is available free of charge on The Joint Commission website, at <http://www.jointcommission.org/implementing-hospital-respiratory-protection-programs-strategies-from-the-field/default.aspx>. For more information, please contact Barbara Braun, PhD, associate director, Department of Health Services Research, The Joint Commission, at bbraun@jointcommission.org. 



The OSHA/NIOSH publication.