

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

---

**From:**  
**Sent:** Monday, March 02, 2009 11:00 AM  
**To:** Miller, Diane M. (CDC/NIOSH/EID)  
**Subject:** Review of NIOSH DVD on Glutaraldehyde  
**Attachments:** NIOSH Review.docx

Diane,

I have attached my comments for review of the draft DVD entitled *Working Safely with Glutaraldehyde: A Guide for Health Care Workers*.

Regards;

*Confidential UPMC information. Any unauthorized or improper disclosure, copying, distributing, or use of the contents of this document/e-mail is prohibited. The information contained in this E-Mail message is intended only for the personal and confidential use of the recipient(s) named above. If you have received this communication in error, please notify the sender immediately by E-mail and delete the original message."*

Richard W. Niemeier, Ph.D.  
Senior Scientist/Toxicologist  
Associate Director for Science  
Education and Information Division  
NIOSH

Dear Dr. Niemier,

Thank you for including me in the review of the NIOSH DVD entitled *Working Safely with Glutaraldehyde: A Guide for Health Care Workers*. The following are my comments:

Overall, the safety theme is consistent throughout. The information appears to be accurate. The DVD provides the basic information needed in a concise manner. There would be no excuse for individuals to claim there is not enough time to view.

Clarity regarding the use of the external pump could be improved by reorganizing the module. I suggest that section 3, Safe Handling be after Section 1, What is Glutaraldehyde? It flows a bit better with the explanation of the external transfer pump. I would also emphasize the use of a pump for transferring the solution as best practice or preferred as you note on the 405 hazard control sheet. In many situations individuals pour directly into soaking trays.

I hope that everyone using glutaraldehyde has a safe working environment. I suspect that some individuals may still be working with soaking tubes and no proper ventilation. In Section 2, Working with Manual Disinfection, you may consider showing unacceptable practice as well.

In Section 3, Safe Handling, you may want to add a statement safely reconstituting the solution.

Another suggestion is to note that there are various types fume hoods and ventilation systems used. The novice may get the impression that the one shown is the only hood available for use. The DVD addresses the need for checking the environment and maintenance of equipment. From my previous experiences, it is important to emphasize the need to have regular preventative maintenance for the fume hood and exhaust system, which includes the HAV system. When building or redoing an area in which glutaraldehyde will be used, it is important to include environmental safety and maintenance.

The Control Guideline Sheets are excellent. I was one of the individuals however that could not access them via the DVD.

The purpose of the DVD is for the disinfection. The disinfection area in the Endoscopy Suite layout information is wonderful. I particularly like the idea of a push plate to enter. The layout of the holding bays is not well organized and an inadequate number. The layout shows 6 procedure rooms and only 7 patient holding bays. My understanding is to plan for at least 1 ½ per procedure room. In my previous practice, even that was often inadequate.

Education on glutaraldehyde in the workplace should be a competency for individuals working in an environment that uses the chemical. This DVD will supply the healthcare worker with the data needed to promote safe practice changes.

Thank you again for allowing me to participate in this review. I hope that my comments have been helpful.

Sincerely,