



STAT facts

HEALTH CARE WORKERS COUNCIL OF THE UNITED STEELWORKERS

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In the News:

NIOSH Issues Fentanyl Safety Recommendations for Health Care Workers

The National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health (NIOSH) last month issued new guidance in addressing potential exposure to illicit fentanyl in health care settings.

The guidance warns that a wide range of health care personnel, including those not directly involved in patient care, could potentially encounter illicit fentanyl, a synthetic opioid considered up to 50 times more potent than heroin.

To minimize exposure, NIOSH outlines a number of best practices, including coordinating with EMS personnel, performing on-site risk assessment, and avoiding certain tasks like using alcohol-based hand rubs that could increase absorption of fentanyl through the skin and shaking bedding or clothing that might disperse fentanyl into the air.

NIOSH also recommends that health care workers in high-risk facilities receive special training and have access to personal protective equipment (PPE) such as disposable filtering face piece respirators, face and eye protection and powder-free nitrile gloves.

To read the full NIOSH report, [click here](#).

To read a summary in Health + Safety Magazine, [click here](#).



Tell Us Your Stories!

Has your local done something outstanding? Have you had a great solidarity action? Done something huge to help your community? Made significant connections with other labor groups? Is your Women of Steel or Next Gen committee making waves?

Tell us about it!

Contact Jess Kamm Broomell at jkamm@usw.org or at 412-562-2446.

Trump's New Insurance Rules are Panned by Nearly Every Health Care Group That Submitted Formal Comments

An overwhelming majority of formal comments submitted in response to the administration's efforts to weaken Obamacare oppose the changes, writes Noam Levey for the Los Angeles Times.

After failing to repeal Obamacare, the president issued two rule changes meant to undermine the law, one expanding the availability of short-term coverage plans that last less than a year and the other expanding so-called association health plans.

The main concern is that these types of plans would leave consumers with less comprehensive coverage and higher out-of-pocket costs.

Before finalizing these sorts of regulations, federal agencies typically allow a comment period so interested parties can share their opinions.

More than 95 percent of health care groups responding to the two proposals were critical of the changes. Commenters included patient and consumer advocates and trade groups representing hospitals, clinics and health insurers.

Notably, not a single group representing patients, physicians, nurses or hospitals responded in support of the two proposals.

To read the full article, [click here](#).



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