



E. I. DU PONT DE NEMOURS & COMPANY

WILMINGTON, DELAWARE 19898

EMPLOYEE RELATIONS DEPARTMENT
MEDICAL DIVISION

CC: PIRF Managers
Plant Managers

RECEIVED

MAR 3 1978

MEDICAL DIVISION
March 1, 1978

COMPANY PHYSICIANS

There are nine different informational items in this letter that you may find pertinent and useful.

1. Requests for Medical Information - NIOSH

Each NIOSH request for information from employee records must be considered on its own set of facts and merits. The Belle situation is unique and the Court's decision about medical record handling does not apply generally throughout the Company. NIOSH requests for employee or pensioner medical records should be referred to the Legal Department as suggested in the attached letter from J. I. Reilly, Director of Environmental Affairs. The Medical Director should be informed of each such request.

2. Contacts with Plant Doctors Regarding Litigation

The Company Doctor should consult with the Medical Division and the Legal Department when there is potential for legal action that may possibly involve the Company. Any testimony, deposition, or release of medical record information by the plant physician in a potential legal action or in litigation should be discussed with the Medical Division and cleared with the Legal Department. For details please read the attached letters of Dr. Bruce W. Harth, Medical Director, and C. E. Welch, Legal Department.

3. Respirator Selection

The enclosed manuals, 15167 - Respirator Selection and 15472 - Meeting the Legal Requirements of 1910.134, will help you understand the logic and basis for respirator selection and the legal requirements. This is primarily an industrial hygiene procedure, but the physician should know the principles and procedures involved. The first twelve pages of the legal requirements contain a useful outline to follow. "NIOSH Technical Information, A Guide to Industrial Respiratory Protection", with comments by F.H. Fuller was sent to you in an earlier mailing. Inputs from both 15167 and 15472 were used to

our Respiratory Committee to establish C.W. Respirator Policy. This will be included in SAFETY How eventually.

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-- You will be interested in your site record and to make a comparison with other sites. The attachment shows an increase in disability wages of 4.0% over 1976. Your efforts to keep the trend from increasing are appreciated. If you are having problems, perhaps we can help you.

Twenty-one sites reported through December, 1977 giving: Tetanus - 153; D-T - 2069; Polio - 1761; Influenza - 171. This is a good response considering the probability that most employees maintained a current schedule of immunizations.

6. Routine chest x-rays and extremity x-rays are frequently read by the site physician. In most instances, the interpretation is not challenged. However, there are increasing risks of liability in self-interpretation if you are not a trained radiologist. It is recommended that x-rays taken at your site be interpreted by a certified radiologist whenever feasible.

7. Dr. Austin Givens, Antioch Works, Antioch, California,
is program chairman for the 1979 AOHC conference and would
like to have subject material for the conference which may
be interesting and timely for Du Pont physicians. Although
the program content is nearly complete, your comments and
requests should be sent directly to Dr. Givens at the above
address.

The University of Cincinnati announced an intensive training program in Occupational Medicine from June 5-23, 1978. See attached copy of letter. This program is longer, more intensive and expensive than most continuing education courses. It may or may not be helpful in your situation. The content of the course should be explored carefully, and information is available from the Director of Continuing Education, Division of Clinical Studies, Department of Environmental Health, University of Cincinnati, College of Medicine, Cincinnati, Ohio 45267.

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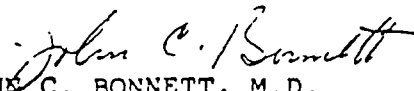
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9. Dispensing Drugs

Each state has a drug control authority to monitor the type, amount and movement of drugs within its jurisdiction. Since most sites dispense drugs routinely or in emergencies, it is prudent to know the drug laws of your state. It is recommended that you obtain information from your state drug authority about the purchasing, storage, dispensing and prescribing of drugs.

In Delaware this authority is the Delaware State Department of Health.

Questions should be directed to the Corporate Medical Division, Extension 9513 or 4866.


JOHN C. BONNETT, M.D.
Asst. Medical Director

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Enclosures

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