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SHEA News

THE SOCIETY FOR HOSPITAL EPIDEMIOLOGY OF AMERICA

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Tuberculosis Issues

Until December 13, 1993, members of SHEA have the opportunity to respond, as individuals, to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) with respect to the "Draft Guidelines for Preventing the Transmission of Tuberculosis in Health Care Facilities, Second Edition," which were published in the *Federal Register* on October 12. Once finalized, these guidelines will be used by OSHA to guide their TB protection enforcement activities (see below). Thus, it is of great importance that members comment directly to CDC, within the comment period, regarding elements of the guidelines that might deserve revision or reconsideration.

On October 8, nearly concomitant with the publication of the CDC draft revised guidelines, the director of compliance programs for OSHA sent a memorandum to all regional OSHA administrators setting forth enforcement policies and procedures for occupational exposure to tuberculosis (see page 694 in this issue). In this document, OSHA states that "employers must provide and ensure the use of high-efficiency particulate air (HEPA) respirators as the minimum acceptable level of respiratory protection." Those who have not already seen the OSHA or *Federal Register* documents will want to review all of the detail that is included. The window of opportunity for comment to the CDC will close soon.

SHEA Sets Annual Meetings for 1998 and 1999

The Annual Meeting Planning Committee of the Society for Hospital Epidemiology of America has chosen the locations, dates, and sites for the 1998 and 1999 (Eighth and Ninth) Annual Meetings. The Eighth Annual Meeting will be held April 5-7, 1998, in Orlando at the Hilton at Walt Disney Village. The Ninth Annual Meeting will be held April 18-20, 1999, in San Francisco at the Hyatt Regency San Francisco. The Annual Meeting Planning Committee has selected sites for future meetings to provide for geographic diversity, to serve members in all areas of the country, and to provide interesting meeting locations. Meeting properties have been chosen so that their sizes will accomodate progressively larger numbers of meeting attendees over time.

We look forward to seeing you at all of our future meetings. Please make plans to attend the Fourth Annual Meeting in New Orleans, March 20-22, 1994, at the Marriott Hotel. The future Annual Meetings of SHEA are as follows: New Orleans, LA, Marriott Hotel, March 20-22, 1994; San Diego, CA, Town and Country Hotel, April 2-4, 1995; Washington, DC, Omni Shoreham Hotel, April 21-23, 1996; St. Louis, MO, Adams Mark Hotel, April 27-29, 1997; Orlando, FL, The Hilton at Walt Disney Village, April 5-7, 1998; San Francisco, CA, Hyatt Regency San Francisco, April 18-20, 1999.

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