From:	Lee, Eun Gyung (Emily) (CDC/NIOSH/RHD/FSB)
To:	jmoenning@aol.com; jmoenning@iomsa.com
Subject:	Docket No. CDC-2025-0022: NIOSH Response to comment
Date:	Thursday, May 28, 2026 2:19:00 PM

Dear Dr. Moenning,

Thank you for your strong support for the proposed data collection project entitled *Occupational Exposures to Waste Anesthetic Gases in Healthcare Professionals* (Docket No. CDC-2025-0022), and for your thoughtful comments. Please see below for our response to your comment.

Summary Comment:
You expressed strong support for CDC efforts to investigate waste anesthetic gas exposure in PACUs, particularly regarding risks to healthcare workers such as PACU nurses. You also emphasized that source control measures should be implemented alongside the study, noting that PACU staff may face exposure risks similar to those encountered in operating rooms.

Response:
We agree that exposure to waste anesthetic gases in PACUs is an important occupational health concern, and we appreciate your emphasis on source control measures. The primary objective of this study is to characterize healthcare workers' exposures under typical, real-world working conditions and to assess associated acute health symptoms. The study is observational in nature and will not alter existing clinical practices or occupational safety procedures at participating facilities. Collecting data during routine practices will enable us to better understand current exposure levels and variability across healthcare settings.

This study is designed as an observational exposure assessment rather than an intervention study and therefore is not intended to evaluate or implement specific source control measures. However, if participating hospitals are already using source control practices or other engineering controls, we will document these measures and examine their potential influence on exposure levels. We will not introduce or require differential use of such measures as part of the study design.

Findings from this assessment are intended to help inform future research, recommendations, and potential exposure control strategies for PACU environments. Evaluation of specific engineering controls or source control technologies would require dedicated intervention studies designed to systematically assess their effectiveness under controlled and field conditions, and we will consider this as a potential direction for future research.

We appreciate your perspective, expertise, and longstanding commitment to protecting healthcare workers, and these considerations will be taken into account as we interpret and apply the study findings.
Please let me know if you have any further comments.

Best Regards,

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