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## **Challenges to Worker Health and Safety in Traditional and Non-Traditional Unionized Health Care Settings**

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This panel discusses the challenges faced by workers in the traditional unionized hospital environment as well as those facing recently organized home care workers in California. While hospital workers face issues of management indifference and must identify mechanisms to develop effective ongoing health and safety committees, California home care workers are employed under an independent provider model, whereby each worker is employed by individual senior or disabled care recipients dispersed in homes throughout the state. Presenters will describe and analyze the history and significance of the independent provider model, including the possibilities and limitations to implementation of effective health and safety programs under this model. They will also present an overview of home care worker hazards and results of a recent NIOSH funded study of home care workers health and safety. In contrast, a hospital worker health and safety committee member will discuss the hazards of the hospital environment and the criteria important to development of a union health and safety committee.

Learning Objectives: Participants will be able to: 1) Identify common hazards facing health care workers 2) Describe the importance of the independent provider model of home care services to worker health and safety 3) Discuss strategies to address health care health and safety including health and safety committees and coalitions

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Organization/institution whose products or services will be discussed: None

I do not have any significant financial interest/arrangement or affiliation with any organization/institution whose products or services are being discussed in this session.

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