

Porcelain Press

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PNNL Recertified as DOE-VPP STAR Site!

After an intensive review involving walkthroughs of 10 major PNNL facilities and interviews with over 100 PNNL staff members, the DOE-VPP On-Site Review Team unanimously recommended that PNNL should continue to be considered a VPP STAR site. They concluded that PNNL provides a safe place for our staff to work and that our operations satisfy all of the DOE-VPP Tenets. They identified several strengths and best practices, and advised us that we have a number of areas where improvement could make things even better. (54696)

Strengths

- ◆ PNNL has institutionalized a process for continuous improvement
- ◆ There is strong pervasive ownership of safety among staff members
- ◆ We have implemented effective self assessment regimens

Best Practices

- ◆ PNNL has a tradition of pioneering approaches and methods leading to excellence
- ◆ There has been significant investment in support tools
- ◆ The VPP Steering Committee and senior management have engaged in "aggressive" communications in support of safety

Areas for Improvement

- ◆ Some Safety and Health Representatives' workloads are high and may warrant assessment/adjustment
- ◆ The electronic support infrastructure (e.g., SBMS, IOPS, etc.) could be streamlined (6B705)
- ◆ The VPP Steering Committee should enhance the demonstration of the "value added" by VPP
- ◆ PNNL should simplify radiation control procedures and the processes for their application

**Flu shots begin
October 4 —
Watch LabWeb
for details**

PNNL Blood Pressure Monitors— are they accurate?

Monitoring your blood pressure allows you to work with your physician to lower your pressure and attendant health risks, such as heart disease, stroke, and kidney failure. So, what do the numbers mean?

- ◆ **Systolic:** This top number measures the maximum pressure in your arteries as your heart beats. A reading of 140 or more indicates hypertension.
- ◆ **Diastolic:** This bottom number represents the minimum pressure in your arteries during the resting phase between heartbeats. A reading of 90 or more indicates hypertension.

Vita-Stat Model 90550 blood pressure units—located in various PNNL buildings—are available for staff use. We encourage you to use these units to monitor your blood pressure, and encourage you to contact your physician if you have consistent, elevated readings. These units:

- ◆ have a built-in automatic calibration check function that alerts the owner of calibration errors and the need for calibration
- ◆ use the same technology as the monitors used in critical care hospital units
- ◆ have accuracy equal to well-trained blood pressure technicians, according to independent research results (6B101)
- ◆ meet the standards of the Association for the Advancement of Medical Instrumentation

If you have questions or concerns about PNNL's blood pressure monitoring units, contact your VPP Steering Committee representative.

PNNL Safety Performance - Data as of 8/27/04

Monthly case counts may fluctuate due to re-classifications that are made when additional/updated information is received.

