

**A RESOLUTION IN SUPPORT OF A MERCURY FREE INITIATIVE AT ST. JOSEPH MERCY
HOSPITAL AND ITS AFFILIATED FACILITIES**

HAZARDOUS MATERIAL AND WASTE SUBCOMMITTEE
October 2, 1997

WHEREAS elemental mercury and mercury compounds are known to be hazardous to human health and the environment and is a potential source of exposure to patients, visitors and staff, and

WHEREAS SJMH Safety Policy III-301 requires consideration of less hazardous alternatives, and

WHEREAS SJMH has experienced nine mercury spills since January 1, 1997 resulting in costs exceeding \$15,600.00 for cleanup and disposal costs, and

WHEREAS mercury continues to be a dangerous and persistent pollutant recognized as a bio accumulative toxin and is largely responsible for federal advisories against consumption of great lakes fish, and

WHEREAS SJMH is participating in and committed to Washtenaw County's ACommunity Parteners for Clean Streams program and is obligated to identify and reduce potential sources of pollution, and

WHEREAS the state of Michigan AMercury Pollution Prevention Task Force report identifies the healthcare industry as a major source of mercury pollution, and

WHEREAS the Michigan Health and Hospital Association (MHA) helped formulate and endorses the recommendations to eliminate and/or reduce mercury use in the healthcare industry, and

WHEREAS SJMH continues to be committed to the health and welfare of the people and communities we serve and the environment we all share, and

WHEREAS there are recognized and widely accepted alternatives to mercury and mercury containing devices used in healthcare.

NOW THEREFORE LET IT BE RESOLVED that the Hazardous Materials and Waste (HMW) Sub Committee of the SJMH Safety Steering Committee hereby supports, endorses and commends all efforts to eliminate and/or reduce mercury use at SJMH.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that SJMH should discontinue the purchase of new mercury containing equipment where other non hazardous alternatives are available such as aneroid sphygmomanometers and digital, tympannic and alcohol thermometers, and that existing mercury devices should be replaced with nonhazardous devices whenever possible and strongly encourages the elimination or reduction of mercury and mercury compound use in any process or procedure performed at SJMH

Endorsements

Chairperson, SJMH Safety Steering Committee.

Chairperson, Quality Improvement Council

Chairperson, Medical Executive Committee

