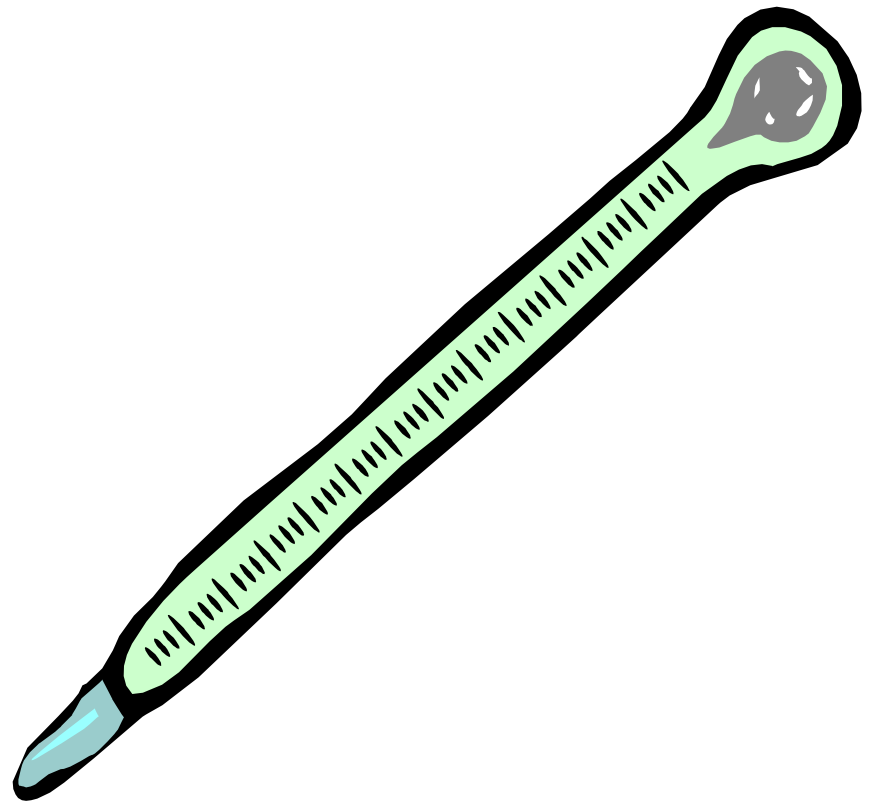
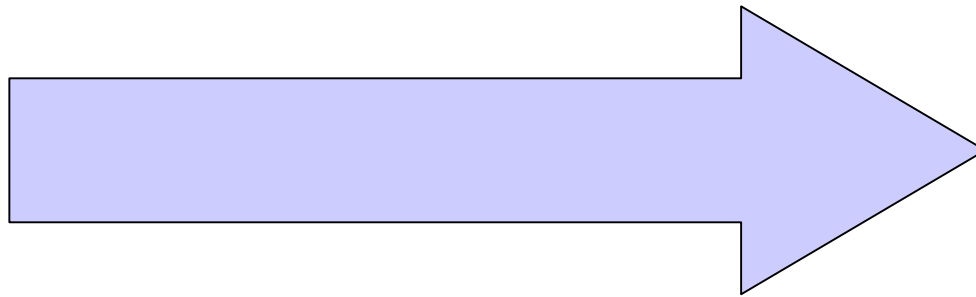


Mercury: Understanding the Silver Stuff



The Changing Perspective

- Managing mercury safely



- Elimination of mercury

Mercury Health Effects

- Releases to environment
- Worker exposure
- Patient exposure

Health Effects

- Nervous system damage: speech deficits, memory loss, gait changes
- Kidney damage: impairs renal function
- Brain damage in developing fetus and neonates: developmental issues

While you still have mercury.....

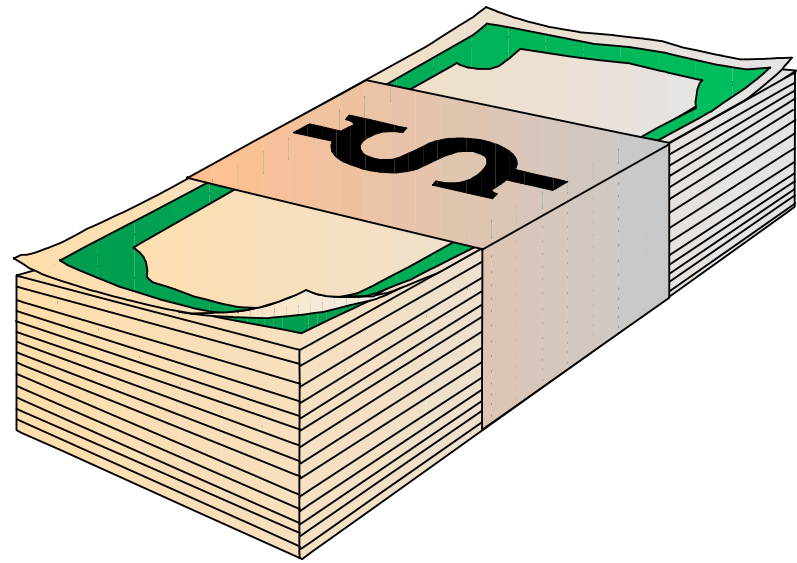
- Spill kits everywhere mercury is present
- Training for staff in mercury spill clean up
- Facility wide in-service for everyone to understand what to do in event of a mercury spill
- Pre existing contract with vendor to accept mercury
- Proper storage and packaging, labeling materials
- Hg sphygmomanometers – need recalibration every six months

Talking Points to Phase out use of Mercury

- Patient safety issue – possible exposure
- Worker safety issue – possible exposure
- Cannot adequately clean up spills – even with the best equipment and supplies
- Multiple surfaces –fabric, tile, masonry, wood, wall coverings, multiple interfaces
- Sink drains
- Space is precious – need to shut down space and test for mercury until levels are safe and acceptable.

Talking Points: The real cost of clean up

- Thermometer breaks on the floor
 - At least 5 sq ft of contaminated area
 - Evacuate area during clean up
 - Costs on unit downtime
 - Costs for clean up supplies and hazardous waste disposal
 - Costs for labor



Talking Points: The real cost of clean up

- Sphygmomanometer breaks in carpeted area
 - Remove and replace carpet, moldings, underpad, baseboard
 - Evacuate area during clean up
 - Costs for unit downtime
 - Costs for clean up supplies and disposal of carpet as hazardous waste
 - Costs for labor
 - Cost for professional crew to test conduct air sampling

