



The American Board of Nuclear Medicine

A Member Board of the American Board
of Medical Specialties

June 6, 2002

John W. N. Hickey
Chief, Materials Safety and Inspection Branch
Division of Industrial and Medical Nuclear Safety
Office of Nuclear Material Safety and Safeguards
U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission
Washington, DC 20555-0001

Dear Mr. Hickey:

I am responding to your letter of May 30, 2002 addressed to Dr. Ronald Van Heertum in which you describe the need for additional information regarding the ABNM certification process. You point out in your letter that new Part 35 requires, as a condition for NRC recognition, that the Board certification process must include a requirement that the candidate obtain a written preceptor's statement and that both the preceptor and the applicant must meet certain qualifications. In view of these requirements, you have asked ABNM to respond to the following questions:

1. Does the ABNM require as part of its certification process that a candidate must obtain a written certification from a qualified preceptor authorized user?

Response to Question #1: As part of the ABNM certification application process, a written certification that is entitled "Evaluation of Clinical Competence" must be obtained from the candidates's Nuclear Medicine Training Program Director, who is a qualified preceptor, a diplomat of ABNM, and an authorized user. The candidate's application for certification cannot go forward without this preceptor statement.

2. If a preceptor statement is required, does ABNM specify that the statement must certify that the candidate has completed the applicable requirements and is qualified to function independently for the medical use authorization(s) requested?

Response to Question #2: As stated above, the preceptor's statement is part of the ABNM certification application process. The preceptor's

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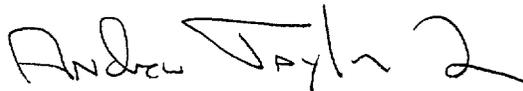
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statement certifies that the candidate for ABNM certification has completed 2 years of nuclear medicine residency training in an ACGME-accredited nuclear medicine residency training program. The candidate is qualified to function independently after he or she has passed the ABNM certification examination.

I hope I have answered your questions and that I have provided the additional information you require. Please do not hesitate to call upon me for any additional information you may need.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Andrew Taylor" followed by a stylized flourish.

Andrew T. Taylor, M.D.
Chairman
American Board of Nuclear Medicine