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September 21, 1998

To: The Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC)

From: Nancy H. Patterson, PhD

Re: Revisions to 10 CFR Part 35 (Medical Uses of Byproduct Materials)

I am a Graves' disease patient, and as such, have had Radioactive Iodine in the treatment of my illness. At the present time, I-131 can be given either in a hospital, or in the physician's office. There are several advantages to having the endocrinologist licensed to give I-131 for Graves' Disease in the office. These include personal, accurate and focused attention between the patient and physician. There is less room for error in the physicians' office. It is cost effective to have office-administered I-131. The cost of hospital administration increases the cost of the procedure by two to three times. It can minimize or reduce the fear and anxiety of this treatment to have it administered in the office. Based on NRC data, there is no documented misadministration of I-131 by endocrinologists.

I have also written to you under the rubric of the National Graves' Disease Foundation, but this is my personal letter. When I received my dose of I-131, it was in a dark, cold, lead-lined room in a strange hospital, administered by a radiologist whom I had never met, who mumbled the "information" to me, and then left the room. The I-131 was carried into the room in a heavy lead box by two assistants who absolutely scurried from the room! The only way I had gotten such "special and timely treatment" was the fact that I was "Dr. Patterson". God help those who have no strings to pull!

I would be pleased to hear from you, and if there is any way in which I can assist you in reaching a decision that is good for the welfare of patients, please let me know.

Sincerely,



Nancy H. Patterson, PhD