

January 31, 2006

MEMORANDUM TO: Leon S. Malmud, M.D., Chairman
Advisory Committee on the
Medical Uses of Isotopes

FROM: Thomas H. Essig, Chief **/RA/**
Materials Safety and Inspection Branch
Division of Industrial and Medical
Nuclear Safety, NMSS

SUBJECT: RESPONSE TO RECOMMENDATIONS FROM THE
OCTOBER 25-26, 2005 MEETING OF THE ADVISORY COMMITTEE
ON THE MEDICAL USES OF ISOTOPES

Below are recommendations from the October 25-26, 2005, meeting of the Advisory Committee on the Medical Uses of Isotopes (ACMUI). Following each recommendation is the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) staff's response and/or position.

ACMUI RESPONSES TO THE ACMUI SELF-EVALUATION

ACMUI recommendation: That, as a means to remind the ACMUI to submit responses to the self-evaluation, the NRC staff should e-mail the entire ACMUI the names of those members who have not responded to the self-evaluation, no later than one week prior to the deadline for response. The self-evaluation should be attached to the e-mail.

NRC staff response: The NRC staff agrees with this recommendation. The NRC staff, in providing administrative support for the ACMUI self-evaluation process, currently sends routine e-mail reminders to ACMUI members in order to obtain their completed self-assessments in a timely manner. In addition to these measures, in accordance with this recommendation, the NRC staff will e-mail the entire ACMUI no later than one week prior to the deadline for response, with the names of members have not responded. The staff will attach the self-evaluation to the e-mail.

CONTACT: Angela McIntosh, NMSS/IMNS
(301) 415-5030

ACMUI SELF-EVALUATION QUESTION

ACMUI recommendation: That the NRC staff add a question to the ACMUI self-evaluation that allows the ACMUI to evaluate the degree that it believes the Commission recognizes the experience and daily responsibilities of medical specialists.

NRC staff response: The NRC staff supports this recommendation. The NRC staff is currently revising the ACMUI self-evaluation questions, and will include a question that provides the ACMUI the opportunity to evaluate the degree that it believes the Commission recognizes the experience and daily responsibilities of medical specialists. The staff will forward the set of revised questions to ACMUI for review and comment. After receiving ACMUI comment, the staff will then forward the set of revised questions to the Commission for final approval.

BOARD CERTIFICATION RECOGNITION

ACMUI recommendation: That NRC staff provide a more detailed explanation of the reason for any case in which a board certified individual is not recognized by the NRC, because the board's certifying process does not meet NRC's requirements.

NRC staff response: The NRC staff agrees with this recommendation. However, to date, there have been no reported denials of certified individuals. The NRC recognition of boards' certification processes is ongoing.

ACMUI SUPPORT OF MILTON HERSHEY MEDICAL CENTER

ACMUI motion: The ACMUI goes on the record to register its support and commendation to Hershey Medical Center for its handling of this case [that involved the alleged misuse of byproduct material]. The motion was unanimously approved by the ACMUI.

NRC staff response: The NRC staff takes no position on this motion. The motion was made as a matter of the ACMUI's position on an action carried out by the Hershey Medical Center.

PUBLICLY AVAILABLE INFORMATION REGARDING MEDICAL EVENTS

ACMUI recommendation: That the NRC staff does not make available to the general public, information regarding a medical event until such time that the event is confirmed.

NRC staff response: The NRC staff agrees with this recommendation. The recommendation has been incorporated into a paper, for Commission consideration and approval, entitled "Adequacy of Medical Event Definitions in 10 CFR 35.3045 and Communicating Associated Risks to the Public."

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NRC staff response: The NRC staff agrees with this recommendation. The staff is currently drafting revised ACMUI self-evaluation questions for Commission approval. The staff will include, in the revised questions, a question whereby the ACMUI can evaluate the degree that it believes the Commission recognizes the experience and daily responsibilities of medical specialists. The staff will forward the set of revised questions to the ACMUI for comment. After receiving ACMUI comment, the staff will then forward the set of revised questions to the Commission for final approval.

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