

~~DOCKET NUMBER~~~~PETITION RULE PRM~~

35-18

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DOCKETED
USNRC

From: "Palmer Steward" <psteward@earthlink.net>
To: <SECY@nrc.gov>
Date: Wed, Dec 21, 2005 9:58 PM
Subject: My Comment on Petition PRM-35-18

December 22, 2005 (9:29am)

OFFICE OF SECRETARY
RULEMAKINGS AND
ADJUDICATIONS STAFF

Dear Sir or Madam:

I am distressed that the hospitals I service discharge patients containing 150 mCi of I-131 immediately following administration of the drug. This is unsafe for the care takers and the family.

Facts:

1. No arrangement are made for the case of a nauseous patient throwing up a significant fraction of the dose in the carpet as he enters his house.
2. No arrangement are made for the patient's having a nose bleed and dangerously contaminating his surroundings be it his home or the mall.
3. The majority of the dose will be excreted within the first 24 hours. This should occur in the controlled environment of the hospital. Following this, the patient can be released with very much less concern.

The hospitals I service respect my recommendation, however, they also ignore my concerns because they must compete in the market place. It is totally up to the regulators to keep our community safe for the patient's caretakers, since the free-market place otherwise eliminates all safety procedures that are a fiscal burden.

I side with the petitioner.

Palmer Steward, PhD
Medical Physicist
Davenport, Iowa

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SECY-02

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Subject: My Comment on Petition PRM-35-18
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