

February 10, 2006

DOCKET NUMBER
PETITION FILE FROM 35-18
(70FR 75752)

DOCKETED
USNRC

February 13, 2006 (11:58am)

To Whom It May Concern:

OFFICE OF SECRETARY
RULEMAKINGS AND
ADJUDICATIONS STAFF

I am a thyroid cancer patient diagnosed in 1998. I am also a volunteer for ThyCa:
Thyroid Cancer Survivor's Association, Inc.

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As a volunteer I encounter many people who are about to undergo treatment with I-131. The main concern of these people is contaminating loved ones, pets, and other persons they may come in contact with. I do not think this is a matter of histrionics. When you are given the list of restrictions, dos, and don'ts by a safety officer or your nuclear medicine department it is indeed frightening.

Personally, I have had doses both in and out patient. My nuclear medicine department is on the sixth floor of the hospital. I was terrified to get into the elevator. How do I know there isn't a woman in her first trimester on the elevator? In my severely hypothyroid state I ended up walking down the stairs.

I am fortunate in that I live very close to the hospital but there are folks who live in rural areas who travel great distances for treatment. Many cannot drive in their hypo states and must resort to being in an automobile with a friend or family member for up to 2-3 hours. No matter how far away they sit, it is still very close contact.

Many of the people I speak to want to go to hotels so they will not contaminate their families. Wonderful, one of the restrictions is to do your own laundry. So now someone will be cleaning that hotel room, changing linens, etc.

I have been lucky in not having any problems during dosing. However, many people experience nausea and vomiting. It is much safer to have a professional in the hospital that knows what to do dealing with radioactive waste.

When considering this issue, remember those of us being treated are very hypothyroid and because of this may have trouble caring for ourselves in the event of vomiting, urinary, or bowel accidents.

Don't let the insurance companies win. Think of the safety and well being of the patients and anyone they may come in contact with first.

Thank you.

Miss Evelyn Gross

Template = SECY-067

SECY-02

From: Carol Gallagher
To: Evangeline Ngbea
Date: Mon, Feb 13, 2006 10:56 AM
Subject: Comment letter on PRM-35-18

Attached for docketing is a comment letter on the above noted PRM from Evelyn Gross that I received via the rulemaking website.

Her address is:

Evelyn Gross
1409 June Lane
Narberth PA 19072-1116
EvelynThyCa@aol.com

Carol

Mail Envelope Properties (43F0AC12.21E : 3 : 886)

Subject: Comment letter on PRM-35-18
Creation Date: 2/13/06 10:56AM
From: Carol Gallagher

Created By: CAG@nrc.gov

Recipients

nrc.gov
owf5_po.OWFN_DO
ESN (Evangeline Ngbea)

Post Office

owf5_po.OWFN_DO

Route

nrc.gov

Files

MESSAGE
1661-0019.doc

Size

1137
22016

Date & Time

02/13/06 10:56AM
02/13/06 10:53AM

Options

Expiration Date: None
Priority: Standard
Reply Requested: No
Return Notification: None

Concealed Subject: No
Security: Standard