



TEXAS DEPARTMENT OF STATE HEALTH SERVICES

2

DAVID L. LAKEY, M.D.  
COMMISSIONER

DOCKETED  
USNRC  
September 2, 2011 (1:10pm)

P.O. Box 149347  
Austin, Texas 78714-9347  
1-888-963-7111  
TTY: 1-800-735-2989  
www.dshs.state.tx.us

OFFICE OF SECRETARY  
RULEMAKINGS AND  
ADJUDICATIONS STAFF

August 10, 2011

Josephine Piccone, Director  
Division of Intergovernmental Liaison  
and Rulemaking  
Office of Federal and State Materials  
and Environmental Management Programs  
U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission  
Washington, D.C. 20555

Re: Docket ID NRC-2008-0175 Opportunity to Comment on Preliminary Proposed Rule  
Language for Medical Use Regulations (FSME-11-044)

Dear Ms. Piccone:

Below are comments regarding the preliminary proposed rule language for medical use  
regulations.

1. In §35.65, under the heading of "Authorized for calibration, transmission, and reference  
sources," subpart (a) states that "Byproduct material authorized by this provision shall not  
be: (1) Used for medical use as defined in §35.2; or ...." In §35.2, medical use is defined  
as, "Medical use means the intentional internal or external administration of byproduct  
material or the radiation from byproduct material to patients or human research subjects  
under the supervision of an authorized user."

The problem with this statement is that the subject heading includes "transmission"  
sources, which are exclusively used to "intentionally deliver radiation from these sources  
to the patient" and image the patient's body; resulting in data images that provide  
quantifying attenuation characteristics unique for that patient. The transmission images  
once blended with raw patient images will result in cleaner diagnostic images. However,  
radiation delivery from transmission sources must always be delivered under the  
supervision of an authorized user, and such transmission irradiation is always used with  
positron emission tomography (PET) cameras, either by use of a "transmission"  
byproduct source or an attached CT scanner, and occasionally these sources will be used  
within traditional gamma cameras.

It is suggested that §35.65(a) be changed to read: "(a) Byproduct material authorized by  
this provision, except transmission sources, shall not be: (1) Used for medical use as  
defined in § 35.2 ...."

Josephine Piccone, Director  
August 10, 2011  
Page 2

2. Concerning §35.290 relating to training for imaging and localization studies. Training is required in the elution and preparation of radiopharmaceuticals from generators, but not in the handling and use of positron radiopharmaceuticals. Improper handling of positron radiopharmaceuticals is a health and safety issue due to the higher energy radiation of the radionuclides being used and potential for greater exposure through repeated handling. It is suggested that the following training requirements for the use of positron emitting radionuclides be added to §35.290:

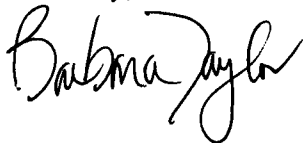
(d) In addition to the training and experience requirements of §35.290(a) - (c), for the use of positron emission tomography (PET) radionuclides, the licensee shall require that the authorized user has:

(A) completed 24 hours of work experience specific to the use of PET radionuclides consistent with §35.290(c)(1)(ii); and

(B) a written attestation statement specific to the use of PET radionuclides for diagnostic imaging.

We appreciate the opportunity to comment on the preliminary proposed medical use rule. If you have questions about our comments, contact Barbara Taylor at [BarbaraJ.Taylor@dshs.state.tx.us](mailto:BarbaraJ.Taylor@dshs.state.tx.us) or 512-834-6770, ext. 2010.

Sincerely,



Barbara Taylor, Manager  
Radiation Policy, Standards and Quality Assurance Group  
Division of Regulatory Services  
Department of State Health Services

## Rulemaking Comments

---

**From:** Gallagher, Carol  
**Sent:** Thursday, September 01, 2011 3:53 PM  
**To:** Rulemaking Comments  
**Subject:** FW: TX Response Ltr to FSME-11-044  
**Attachments:** TX Rspns Ltr FSME-11-044 NRC Prelim Prop Part 35\_Cmnts 8-10-2011 BT.doc

---

**From:** Bhalla, Neelam  
**Sent:** Wednesday, August 10, 2011 2:17 PM  
**To:** Gallagher, Carol  
**Subject:** FW: TX Response Ltr to FSME-11-044

Hi Carol, here is a comment letter that came from the Texas, Dept of Health. The comment is on the preliminary proposed rule language that we posted on the Federal Rulemaking Web site at <http://www.regulations.gov> under Docket ID NRC-2008-0175 (in (ADAMS) Accession Number ML111390420). Please handle it. Thanks.  
neelam

---

**From:** Perez, Monica (DSHS) [<mailto:Monica.Perez@dshs.state.tx.us>]  
**Sent:** Wednesday, August 10, 2011 9:45 AM  
**To:** Bhalla, Neelam  
**Cc:** Taylor, Barbara J (DSHS); Piccone, Josephine  
**Subject:** TX Response Ltr to FSME-11-044

Attached is the Texas Department of State Health Services, Radiation Control Program, response letter to FSME-11-044, regarding preliminary proposed rule language for medical use regulations.

Thank you,

Monica Perez  
Rule Development Program  
Radiation Group  
Policy, Standards, and Quality Assurance Unit  
Division for Regulatory Services  
Texas Department of State Health Services  
Exchange Bldg, Rm S-166  
PO Box 149347, MC 1987  
Austin TX 78714-9347  
Work (512) 834-6770, x 2235  
Fax (512) 834-6708