

590

NDC + Medical Center
Sentara Medical Group

99 OCT 18 PM 4:23

October 15, 1999

US NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION
THE HONORABLE CHAIRWOMAN GRETA DICUS
016C1
WASHINGTON DC 20555

FAX 301-415-1672

DOCKET NUMBER
PROPOSED RULE **PR 20,32+35**
(63FR43516)

Dear Madam Chairwoman:

As a clinical endocrinologist, I am writing to express my strong hope that you and the other commissioners will concur with the NRC staff recommendations regarding the number of training and experienced hours required for those who treat patients with iodine I-131.

The proposal to maintain the current 80-hour training requirement is reasonable and the exemplary 50-year safety record of endocrinologists using I-131 under the current regime is evidence that the present rule is sufficient for ensuring the safe administration of this radioisotope.

I understand that there are groups who want to see the number of hours, not doubled or tripled, but to be multiplied ninefold to 700 hours! This excessive and unnecessary regulatory burden would eliminate endocrinologists from treating their own patients.

Most importantly, the 700-hour requirement would ultimately jeopardize the health of patients. As patients who trust their endocrinologists – experts in the field of thyroid related diseases – will be forced to go elsewhere for treatment.

I commend the NRC staff for taking a position that is rational, fair and pro-patient. I genuinely hope that the commissioner would embrace their recommendations by leaving the current 80-hour rule in force.

Thank you very much for giving my view your careful consideration.

Sincerely yours,

Ghandi M. Saadeh, M.D., FACP, FACE
GMS:dle

850 Kampsville Road.
Norfolk, VA 23502-3979

Appointments: 757.466.5900
Administration: 757.466.5910
Fax: 757.466.8317 (Medical Records)
www.sentara.com

Dermatology
Reginald B. Henry, III, MD
Mark W. Janson, MD

Endocrinology
Ghandi M. Saadeh, MD, FACP, FACE

Gastroenterology
Edward L. Litty, MD, FACP

Infectious Diseases
William P. Edmondson, Jr., MD, FACP
Francis E. Holder, MD
Scott A. Miller, MD, FACP
John F. Warner, MD, FACP

Internal Medicine
Steven B. Ackerman, MD
William D. Azzhley, Jr., MD, FACP
Robert L. Bademan, MD
Siva Balakrishnan, MD, FACP
John D. Becher, Jr., MD
David P. Blas, MD
James W. Carty, Jr., MD
H. Steven Choi, MD
Richard L. Cullen, Jr., MD
Craig B. Froede, MD, FACP
Jeffrey M. Graves, MD, FACP
E. Beaumont Hodge, Jr., MD, FACP
Ramon A. Matawaran, MD
Jonathan W. Miller, MD
Beverly S. Roberts, DO
Lisa Price Stevens, MD
Ghandi M. Saadeh, MD, FACP, FACE
Walter E. Vest, III, MD

Jennifer L. Crockford, RN, MSN, CS
Ruby T. Haynes, CS, ANP
Leslie S. Hodeen, RN, MSN, CS
Claudia T. Perkins, MS, RN, FNP, CS

Pulmonary & Critical Care
John T. Bowers, II, MD, FCCP
Gene H. Burke, MD
John G. Duckett, MD, FCCP
A. Randolph Garnett, Jr., MD, FCCP, FACP
A. J. Quaranta, MD, FCCP
Michael J. Straka, PA-C
James R. Tomlinson, MD, FCCP

Radiology
Marc L. Passar, MD

Rheumatology
William W. Gough, MD, FACP
Eric C. Hodeen, MD, FACP
Albert H. Lee, MD, FACP, FACP
Neil M. Sullivan, MD, FACP

Urgent Care
David M. Cundiff, MD, FACP, FACEP
Zarina Mistry, MD
William L. Robinett, MD, FACEP



9910210342 991015
PDR PR
20 64FR43516 PDR

18 OCT 99

DS10