

THYROID AND DIABETES MANAGEMENT CENTER

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U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission
The Honorable Chairwoman Greta J. Dicus
Chairwomen
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Washington, D.C. 20555

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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 experience hours required for those who treat patients with Iodine-131 (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 the radioisotope.

I understand that there are groups that want to see the number of hours not doubled, nor triple, 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 hours 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 Commissioners will embrace their recommendation by leaving the current 80 hours rule in force.

Thank you for giving my views your careful consideration.

Respectfully,

Richard S. Longley M.D., F.A.C.E.

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