

ENDOCRINOLOGY CONSULTANTS OF EAST TENNESSEE

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November 4, 1999

The Honorable Greta J. Dicus
Chairwoman, US Nuclear Regulatory Commission
016C1
Washington, D.C 20555

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

Dear Chairwoman Dicus:

I am writing you to encourage your support for the NRC staff proposed draft regulation regarding training and experience requirements for use of Iodine 131 in the treatment of thyroid disease. Endocrinologists were the first physicians to use this isotope in clinical thyroidology, and have continued to do so safely, conveniently, and cost-effectively over the past fifty years. In our referral area of Central East Tennessee, the two commercial suppliers of I 131 inform me that our single group of Endocrinologists administers over 70% of all I 131 treatment doses given in our region. These are administered through our office (all of her our physicians are appropriately licensed for this use) at much greater convenience to our patients than would occur if they had to be referred to a hospital nuclear medicine department. In addition, the cost that we charge for purchase and administration of this isotope is hundreds of dollars less than the hospital nuclear medicine departments in our area charge for the exact same dose from the exact same supplier!

The current impetus to increase the training and experience requirements for I 131 up to the incredible figure of 700 hours has no basis whatsoever in science or safety – quite to the contrary, Endocrinologists have an exemplary safety record over many decades in use of this isotope for treatment of their patients. Regrettably, the incentive to dramatically increase the training requirements for use of this single isotope originates in our colleagues in Nuclear Medicine and Radiology. They have unfortunately chosen to prioritize their greed

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The Honorable Greta J. Dicus

November 4, 1999

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over considerations of patient convenience, safety, and cost since they know that increasing the training requirements to 700 hours would effectively limit use of this isotope to physicians in their specialties.

The Nuclear Regulatory Commission is charged with the responsibility to ensure safe use of isotopes. The incredibly safe proven track record of Endocrinologists use of this isotope over five decades should provide more than adequate assurance that current training requirements are quite sufficient to protect the public. Furthermore, in light concerns regarding limitations of time and financial resources, it would seem prudent to also consider factors relating to patient convenience and cost, both of which strongly favor continuing to allow Endocrinologists to offer this service to their patients.

Thanking you in advance for your support in ensuring that governmental regulations do not discriminate against competent Endocrinologists continuing to provide convenient and cost-effective care to their patients, I remain,

Sincerely yours,



Bill Law, Jr., MD, FACE/FACP
Clinical Associate Professor of Medicine
Chief, Section of Endocrinology
University of Tennessee Graduate School
of Medicine at Knoxville

BLJ/lyc

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From: Troi <troi@rocketmail.com>
To: OWFN_DO.owf5_po(CHAIRMAN)
Date: Fri, Nov 12, 1999 3:54 PM
Subject: recycling radioactive materials

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USMRC

'99 NOV 15 A9:20

I just heard that you all are planning to recycle radioactive materials into metals that i or my family may unwittingly use in the future. I believe this is grossly irresponsible...no this is a crime against the people of this country. I am greatly opposed and demand that you do not go through with this.

OFF
FILE
ADOLE

Troy Jones

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(64FR35090)

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