

Medical Issues

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AAPM

- Is the the premier organization in medical physics; a broadly-based scientific and professional discipline encompassing physics principles and applications in biology and medicine whose mission is to advance the science, education and professional practice of medical physics.
- Represents over 7,300 medical physicists.



Event Reporting

- Event reporting in a national system is essential.
- Must be modality independent, easy to use, universal, anonymous, and non-punitive.
- Must be able to collect potential and actual event data completely and efficiently.
- Data on medical errors is essential to conduct a trend analysis, make assessments, inform the community, and make improvements.



Nuclear Materials Event Database (NMED)

- Not publically accessible
- Only includes radioactive materials
- Doesn't currently allow for trend analysis



Ritenour Petition PRM-35-20

- Petition was filed on September 10, 2006 by AAPM
- NRC published it in the Federal Register November 1, 2006 (71FR64168)
- Decision published May 14, 2008 (73FR27773)
- Request to the certifying boards for additional information for regulatory basis closed January 15, 2009



Ritenour Petition PRM-35-20 (continued)

- NRC prepared a regulatory basis document.
- Reviewed by rulemaking staff and found sound.
- Without a regulatory change, this continues to be a problem for listing authorized medical physicists (AMPs) and radiation safety officers, authorized users and authorized nuclear pharmacists
- Impacts negatively on approximately 2,000 AMPs
- Four years later, still don't have final regulatory resolution.



Isotope Shortage

- A continuous reliable supply of medical radioisotopes is essential.
- AAPM supports *the American Medical Isotope Production Act of 2010*
- Without a reliable US supply of Tc-99, use of alternative radioisotopes can result in increased occupational doses to technologists and may not result in gold standard of care being available for all patients.



Isotope Shortage

- AAPM acknowledges NRC's efforts in this area and urges NRC to expedite licensing actions for new facilities to produce a US supply of medical isotopes.



Questions?

