



**ACMUI's Comments
on the NRC's
Patient- Release Project**

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Prologue

Dose- vs Activity-Based Release Criteria

- **Medical use of radionuclides**
 - **Widely recognized health benefits**
 - **Public doses \approx Background levels**
 - **Avoid burdensome regulatory control**

Prologue

Dose- vs Activity-Based Release Criteria

- **Dose: A more meaningful and direct metric of radiation risk than activity**
 - **The amount of radioactive material (activity) does not predict dose to other individuals from the patient**

Prologue

Dose- vs Activity-Based Release Criteria

- **ACMUI endorses current
10 CFR 35.75 dose-based
release criterion**

NRC's Patient Release Project

Develop a patient-directed web site and brochure providing information on release of radionuclide (Na^{131}I)-therapy patients and related radiation-safety issues

ACMUI Comments

- **Wide variability in quantity and quality of radiation-safety precautions and related information conveyed to radionuclide therapy patients**
 - **Some of this variability due to differences among patients and their circumstances**

ACMUI Comments

- **Pressing need for systematic dissemination of clear, consistent, and scientifically based radiation-safety information to such patients**
- **Such information is already available in the peer-reviewed medical literature**

Example

NCRP REPORT No. 155

MANAGEMENT OF
RADIONUCLIDE
THERAPY PATIENTS



2006

- **Freely available companion EXCEL file**
 - **Patient-specific time of release and duration of post-release precautions**

- **Populates patient-specific instruction sheet**

- **Distributed to 53 centers to date**

Disclosure: Co-Author of Report

ACMUI Comments cont.

- **Inadequacy and inconsistency in radiation-safety information conveyed to radionuclide therapy patients is a matter of professional education - eg Professional societies' "Practice Guidelines"**

ACMUI Comments cont.

- **Patient-directed web site and brochure are inappropriate because they interpose a regulator (ie the NRC) between the patient and his/her physician**
 - **Concerned this may exacerbate patient confusion and anxiety by failing to account for differences among patients**

Acronyms

- **ACMUI: Advisory Committee on Medical Uses of Isotopes**
- **CFR: Code of Federal Regulations**
- **NCRP: National Council on Radiation Protection and Measurements**