



NRC NEWS

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EO14300 Rulemaking

NRC Moves to Streamline Radioactive Medical Treatment Regulations

ROCKVILLE, Md. — The Nuclear Regulatory Commission today proposed the most significant update to its medical use regulations in years, streamlining requirements for hospitals and physicians while preserving rigorous safety standards to help speed patient access to next-generation diagnostic and cancer therapies using radioactive materials.

Radioactive materials are used in millions of medical procedures each year, including cancer treatments and diagnostic imaging. But portions of the NRC's regulations have not kept pace with advances in radiopharmaceuticals, new treatment techniques, and evolving medical practice. The proposed rule updates those requirements by reducing unnecessary regulatory burden while maintaining strong protections for patients, workers, and the public.

“This proposal modernizes our rules while maintaining the strong safety standards the public expects,” Chairman Ho K. Nieh said.

Radioactive materials are used widely in medicine, from diagnostic imaging to cancer therapies. The proposal would:

- Simplify licensing requirements for hospitals and clinics.
- Modernize physician training and authorization requirements.
- Expand decay-in-storage options, reducing disposal costs.
- Codify current best practices for handling radioactive materials.
- Create a framework for evaluating future medical technologies.

The public may comment on the proposed rule [here](#). Click here for a Frequently Asked Questions [document](#) that explains key aspects of the rule.

The U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission was created as an expert, technical agency to protect public health, safety, and security, and regulate the civilian use of nuclear materials, including enabling the deployment of nuclear power for the benefit of society. Among other responsibilities, the agency issues licenses, conducts inspections, initiates and enforces regulations, and plans for incident response. The NRC is collaborating with interagency partners to implement reforms outlined in new Executive Orders and the ADVANCE Act to streamline agency activities and enhance efficiency.