



Oregon

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**Oregon Health Authority
Public Health Division
Environmental Public Health
Radiation Protection Services**

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To: Radiopharmaceutical Therapy Licensees

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**NRC POLICY REGARDING RELEASE OF IODINE-131 THERAPY PATIENTS UNDER
10 CFR 35.75 TO LOCATIONS OTHER THAN PRIVATE RESIDENCES**

This Informational Bulletin is being issued to advise licensees on NRC's policy on the release of iodine-131 therapy patients under 10 CFR Part 35.75, to locations other than private residences. The regulations require that instructions on how to keep doses as low as reasonably achievable be given to patients if there is a possibility that doses to third parties would exceed 1 mSv.

This bulletin addresses the concerns of the Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) and the State of Oregon Health Authority (OHA) that licensees analyze each patient's specific circumstances to determine the appropriate recommendations to provide to the patient prior to being released.

When iodine-131 patients are released to a private residence, the patient will likely be able to fully describe details of the living situations that allow the licensee to make reasonable estimates of exposures to other individuals. OHA and the NRC recognize that there may be cases in which patients, who would potentially be eligible for release to a private residence, become adamant on not being hospitalized or going to a private residence, and may select alternative locations (e.g. hotel, motel, etc.) as their post-therapy destination. The potential dose to third parties could exceed 1mSv and licensees must provide adequate instructions to assure that the dose to the public meets the ALARA requirement.

The OHA recommends that, as part of a licensee's approach for determining safe patient release, a licensee must encourage patients who share living space with individuals whose exposure to radiation may pose a higher risk (e.g. young children, pregnant females) to temporarily relocate such individuals to alternate locations. Licensees should consider not releasing patients whose living conditions may result in the contamination and exposure of infants and young children.

This recommendation is in keeping with the additional instructions provided in NRC Regulatory Issue Summary (RIS) 2008-11, "Precautions To Protect Children Who May Come In Contact With Patients Released After Therapeutic Administration with Iodine-131".

Please contact our office if you need additional guidance or information.

The complete Regulatory Issue Summary can be downloaded from;
<http://pbadupws.nrc.gov/docs/ML1036/ML103620153.pdf>