

# UNITED STATES NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION WASHINGTON, D.C. 20555-0001

May 2, 2019

Dr. Timothy Stenzel
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Food and Drug Administration
10903 New Hampshire Avenue
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Via e-mail to Timothy.Stenzel@fda.hhs.gov

SUBJECT: U.S. NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD AND MEETINGS ON DRAFT APPROACHES FOR TRAINING AND EXPERIENCE REQUIREMENTS FOR RADIOPHARMACEUTICALS

Dear Dr. Stenzel,

The purpose of this letter is to inform you that the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) has published a notice in the *Federal Register* announcing a second public comment period and two additional public meetings on the NRC staff's evaluation of training and experience (T&E) requirements for administration of radiopharmaceuticals requiring a written directive.

The NRC first contacted you in a letter dated November 2, 2018, that described the staff's planned evaluation of the T&E requirements under Subpart E, "Unsealed Byproduct Material—Written Directive Required," of Title 10 of the *Code of Federal Regulations* (10 CFR) Part 35, "Medical Use of Byproduct Material." Specifically, the staff is evaluating: (1) whether it makes sense to establish tailored T&E requirements for different categories of radiopharmaceuticals, (2) how those categories should be determined, (3) what the appropriate T&E requirements would be for each category, and (4) whether those requirements should be based on hours of training and experience, or focused more on competency. Revising the T&E requirements could provide additional pathways for physicians to become authorized users for specific types of radiopharmaceuticals requiring a written directive.

The November 2, 2018 letter also announced an initial public comment period and public meetings on the NRC's current T&E regulations under 10 CFR 35, Subpart E. Since the end of the initial public comment period the NRC staff has developed several draft approaches regarding the T&E requirements. The enclosed *Federal Register* notice (FRN) was published on May 2, 2019 (84 FR 18874) and opened a 30-day public comment period for input from the medical community and members of the public on the staff's draft approaches and a series of specific questions about the draft approaches. The FRN contains instructions on how to submit written comments via the Federal rulemaking Web site, <a href="www.regulations.gov">www.regulations.gov</a>, using docket ID number NRC-2018-0230. The 30-day comment period ends on June 3, 2019. The FRN is also available at <a href="https://federalregister.gov/d/2019-08996">https://federalregister.gov/d/2019-08996</a>.

In addition to accepting written comments using <a href="www.regulations.gov">www.regulations.gov</a>, the NRC will also be accepting oral comments during two public meetings scheduled for May 14, 2019 and

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May 23, 2019. The May 14 meeting will be open to members of the public for in-person attendance at the NRC's headquarters in Rockville, MD, and both meetings will be accessible for remote participation by moderated bridge line and webinar. The NRC's public meeting Web site will be updated with meeting details at least 10 days before the meetings: <a href="https://www.nrc.gov/pmns/mtg">https://www.nrc.gov/pmns/mtg</a>.

To participate in the meetings via webinar and moderated bridge line, you must register in advance using the following URLs:

 Tuesday, May 14, 2019, 1:00 – 4:00 p.m. EDT: https://attendee.gotowebinar.com/register/26839476715014924

Bridge Line: 888-452-5182 Pass Code: 2649150

 Thursday, May 23, 2019, 10:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m. EDT: https://attendee.gotowebinar.com/register/4099285410908048653

Bridge Line: 888-452-5182 Pass Code: 7476312

Comments received on the FRN will help the staff determine advantages, disadvantages, and other considerations for the draft approaches. The staff will document their evaluation and provide options regarding the T&E requirements in a paper to the Commission planned for issuance in late fall 2019. Additional information on the staff's T&E evaluation can be found at <a href="https://www.nrc.gov/materials/miau/med-use-toolkit/training-experience-evaluation.html">https://www.nrc.gov/materials/miau/med-use-toolkit/training-experience-evaluation.html</a>. If you have questions on this correspondence, please contact Ms. Sarah Lopas of my staff at (301) 415-6360 or <a href="maintage-garantage-ga

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Christian Einberg, Chief Medical Safety and Events Assessment Branch Division of Materials Safety, Security, State and Tribal Programs Office of Nuclear Material Safety and Safeguards

Enclosure: Federal Register notice (84 FR 18874)

#### **NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION**

### [NRC-2018-0230]

Draft Approaches for Addressing Training and Experience Requirements for Radiopharmaceuticals Requiring a Written Directive

**AGENCY:** Nuclear Regulatory Commission.

**ACTION:** Draft approaches for training and experience requirements; request for comment and notice of public meetings.

**SUMMARY:** The U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) would like input on draft approaches the staff has developed that would potentially revise the training and experience (T&E) requirements for radiopharmaceuticals requiring a written directive. The input will be used to determine whether regulatory changes to the NRC's T&E requirements for authorized users (AUs) are warranted and potential advantages, disadvantages, and other considerations associated with each approach.

**DATES:** Submit comments by June 3, 2019. Comments received after this date will be considered if it is practical to do so, but the NRC is only able to ensure consideration for comments received on or before this date. Two public meetings to solicit comments will be held on May 14, 2019 and May 23, 2019.

**ADDRESSES:** You may submit comments by any of the following methods:

Federal Rulemaking Web Site: Go to <a href="http://www.regulations.gov">http://www.regulations.gov</a> and search for Docket ID NRC-2018-0230. Address questions about NRC dockets IDs in regulations.gov to Jennifer Borges; telephone: 301-287-9127; e-mail: <a href="mailto:Jennifer.Borges@nrc.gov">Jennifer.Borges@nrc.gov</a>. For technical

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ENCLOSURE

questions, contact the individual listed in the **FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT** section of this document.

Mail comments to: Office of Administration, Mail Stop: TWFN-7-A60M, U.S.
 Nuclear Regulatory Commission, Washington, DC 20555-0001, ATTN: Program Management,
 Announcements and Editing Staff.

For additional direction on obtaining information and submitting comments, see "Obtaining Information and Submitting Comments" in the **SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION** section of this document.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Sarah Lopas, Office of Nuclear Material Safety and Safeguards, U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission, Washington, DC 20555-0001; telephone: 301-415-6360, e-mail: <a href="mailto:Sarah.Lopas@nrc.gov">Sarah.Lopas@nrc.gov</a>.

#### SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

## I. Obtaining Information and Submitting Comments

### A. Obtaining Information

Please refer to Docket ID **NRC-2018-0230** when contacting the NRC about the availability of information for this action. You may obtain publicly-available information related to this action by any of the following methods:

- Federal Rulemaking Web Site: Go to <a href="http://www.regulations.gov">http://www.regulations.gov</a> and search for Docket ID NRC-2018-0230.
- NRC's Agencywide Documents Access and Management System (ADAMS):
   You may obtain publicly-available documents online in the ADAMS Public Documents collection at <a href="http://www.nrc.gov/reading-rm/adams.html">http://www.nrc.gov/reading-rm/adams.html</a>. To begin the search, select "Begin Web-based ADAMS Search." For problems with ADAMS, please contact the NRC's Public Document Room (PDR) reference staff at 1-800-397-4209, 301-415-4737, or by e-mail to

<u>pdr.resource@nrc.gov</u>. The ADAMS accession number for each document referenced is provided the first time that it is mentioned in the **SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION** section.

 NRC's PDR: You may examine and purchase copies of public documents at the NRC's PDR, Room O1-F21, One White Flint North, 11555 Rockville Pike, Rockville, Maryland 20852.

### B. Submitting Comments

Please include Docket ID **NRC-2018-0230** in your comment submission. The NRC cautions you not to include identifying or contact information in comment submissions that you do not want to be publicly disclosed in your comment submission. All comment submissions are posted at <a href="http://www.regulations.gov">http://www.regulations.gov</a> and entered into ADAMS. Comment submissions are not routinely edited to remove identifying or contact information.

If you are requesting or aggregating comments from other persons for submission to the NRC, then you should inform those persons not to include identifying or contact information that they do not want to be publicly disclosed in their comment submission. Your request should state that the NRC does not routinely edit comment submissions to remove such information before making the comment submissions available to the public or entering the comment into ADAMS.

# II. Background

On August 17, 2017, the Commission issued a staff requirements memorandum (SRM), SRM-M170817 (ADAMS Accession No. ML17229B284) directing the staff to evaluate: (1) whether it makes sense to establish tailored T&E requirements for different categories of radiopharmaceuticals, (2) how those categories should be determined (such as by risks posed by groups of radionuclides or by delivery method), (3) what the appropriate T&E requirements would be for each category, and (4) whether those requirements should be based on hours of T&E or focused more on competency. In response to the SRM, the NRC staff documented its

initial results, status, and next steps related to this evaluation in SECY-18-0084, "Staff Evaluation of Training and Experience Requirements for Administering Different Categories of Radiopharmaceuticals in Response to SRM-M170817" (ADAMS Package Accession No. ML18135A276).

In SECY-18-0084, the staff concluded that it may be feasible to establish tailored T&E requirements however, additional outreach with the medical community was needed to determine whether and how to tailor those requirements. Revising the T&E requirements could provide additional pathways for physicians to become AUs for specific types of radiopharmaceuticals under 10 CFR 35.300, "Use of unsealed byproduct material for which a written directive is required."

As part of the needed additional outreach discussed in SECY-18-0084, the NRC published a notice in the *Federal Register* on October 29, 2018 (83 FR 54380) requesting comments on the staff's evaluation of the T&E requirements for radiopharmaceuticals under 10 CFR 35.300. The NRC held four public meetings on this topic and collected public comments through January 29, 2019. Public comments and meeting transcripts are available on the Federal Rulemaking Web site at <a href="https://www.regulations.gov/">https://www.regulations.gov/</a> under Docket ID NRC-2018-0230. Following the conclusion of the initial public comment period, the staff developed several draft approaches to address the directions in SRM-M170817. The NRC is now interested in obtaining input on these draft approaches.

During the comment period between May 2, 2019 and June 3, 2019, the NRC will hold two public meetings to discuss the draft approaches in this document and accept oral comments on those draft approaches. Both public meetings will be available for remote participation by moderated bridge line and webinar and one meeting will also be open for in-person attendance at the NRC's headquarters in Rockville, Maryland. The public meetings are scheduled for May 14, 2019 (webinar and in-person attendance) and May 23, 2019 (webinar-only). The public

meetings will be noticed on the NRC's public meeting Web site at least 10 calendar days before each meeting. Members of the public should monitor the NRC's public meeting Web site at <a href="https://www.nrc.gov/pmns/mtg">https://www.nrc.gov/pmns/mtg</a>. The NRC will also post the meeting notices on the Federal Rulemaking Web site at <a href="https://www.regulations.gov/">https://www.regulations.gov/</a> under Docket ID NRC-2018-0230.

The NRC may post additional materials related to this document, including public comments, on the Federal Rulemaking Web site. The Federal Rulemaking Web site allows you to receive alerts when changes or additions occur in a docket folder. To subscribe: (1) Navigate to the docket folder NRC-2018-0230; (2) click the "Sign up for E-mail Alerts" link; and (3) enter your email address and select how frequently you would like to receive emails (daily, weekly, or monthly).

### III. Draft Approaches for Comment

The NRC staff has developed the following draft approaches based on input received during the initial public comment period and the Advisory Committee on Medical Uses of Isotopes T&E subcommittee's report dated February 27, 2019 (ADAMS Accession No. ML19058A598). The NRC is requesting comments on the draft approaches, including potential advantages, disadvantages, and other considerations associated with each and whether some approaches could be revised, combined, or if more than one approach could be implemented. The NRC staff is also requesting input on specific questions associated with the approaches.

### A. Status Quo

"Status Quo" presents no changes to the current T&E requirements for radiopharmaceuticals requiring a written directive under 10 CFR 35.300.

• Question 1: If the "Status Quo" is maintained, how should the NRC ready itself for the expected increase in number and complexity of future radiopharmaceuticals?

 Question 2: Is there a challenge with the current T&E requirements—such as concerns regarding patient access to radiopharmaceuticals—that should be addressed through a rulemaking?

### B. Tailored Training and Experience Requirements

The four approaches under this section would modify the existing T&E requirements under 10 CFR 35.390, "Training for use of unsealed byproduct material for which a written directive is required." The approaches described under Sections B.1, B.2, and B.3 would require a set amount of T&E tailored to the specific radiopharmaceuticals, and the "Emerging Radiopharmaceuticals" approach described under Section B.4 would tailor T&E requirements for each new radiopharmaceutical as they were developed, similar to the approach for regulating new technologies under 10 CFR 35.1000, "Other Medical Uses of Byproduct Material or Radiation from Byproduct Material."

- Question 3: How should the complexity of the radiopharmaceutical administration protocol be considered in establishing the T&E requirements for the limited approaches described in Sections B.1 and B.2 below?
  - 1. Limited AU for Alpha- or Beta-Emitting Radiopharmaceuticals
    Under this approach, any physician could complete at least 400 hours of T&E to be authorized to administer any alpha- or beta-emitting radiopharmaceutical. The T&E would consist of 200 hours of classroom and laboratory training and a minimum of 200 hours of supervised work experience tailored to alpha- and beta-emitting radiopharmaceuticals. Preceptor attestation would be required.
    - Question 4: How should the NRC categorize radiopharmaceuticals with mixed emissions?
  - Limited AU for Unit-Dose, Patient-Ready Radiopharmaceuticals
     Under this approach, any physician could complete at least 400 hours of T&E to be

authorized to administer any unit-dose, patient-ready radiopharmaceutical. The T&E would consist of 200 hours of classroom and laboratory training and a minimum of 200 hours of supervised work experience tailored to unit-dose, patient-ready radiopharmaceuticals. Preceptor attestation would be required.

- Question 5: Under what conditions should a radiopharmaceutical be considered "patient ready" such that the T&E requirements could be tailored?
- 3. Limited AU for Any One Parenteral Radiopharmaceutical

Under this approach any physician could complete at least 400 hours of T&E to be authorized to administer any one parenteral radiopharmaceutical. The T&E would consist of 200 hours of classroom and laboratory training and a minimum of 200 hours of supervised work experience tailored to the radiopharmaceutical they wish to administer. Preceptor attestation would be required. Limited AUs who have initially completed their at least 400 hours of T&E and then wish to administer a different radiopharmaceutical would be required to complete, minimally, an additional 80 hours of tailored, supervised work experience for each additional radiopharmaceutical.

### 4. Emerging Radiopharmaceuticals

Like the NRC's regulations at 10 CFR 35.1000, under this approach the NRC would conduct individual reviews of each new emerging radiopharmaceutical to determine T&E requirements specific to the new radiopharmaceutical. The T&E requirements could be tailored to consider potential users of the radiopharmaceutical (e.g., non-nuclear medicine or non-radiation oncology physicians wishing to administer the radiopharmaceutical for their patients with indicated cancers), thus creating alternate T&E pathways for each new radiopharmaceutical.

#### C. Performance-Based

The approaches described in this section would remove prescriptive T&E requirements from the regulations and instead would focus oversight on the performance-based aspects of a licensee's medical program for the administration of radiopharmaceuticals.

### 1. Competency-Based Evaluation

Under this approach, proposed AUs would be required to demonstrate competency in radiation safety topics and radiation safety-related job duties through a formal competency evaluation (e.g., an examination or preceptor attestation).

 Question 6: How could a competency-based evaluation ensure appropriate training and experience for AUs administering radiopharmaceuticals?

### 2. Credentialing of Authorized Users

Under this approach, the NRC would no longer review and approve T&E qualifications for all AUs under 10 CFR part 35. Instead, licensees would develop and use their own policies and procedures to make self-determinations of whether their credentialed physicians have the appropriate T&E to be an AU for one or more radiopharmaceuticals under 10 CFR 35.300. Licensees would be required to maintain a training program that ensures compliance with the requirements in 10 CFR 35.41, "Procedures for administrations requiring a written directive," and 10 CFR part 20, "Standards for Protection Against Radiation."

 Question 7: How could physicians in small practices be credentialed (e.g., physicians not associated with hospitals or other large institutions and their credentialing boards)?

### D. Team-Based

Team-based approaches could remove prescriptive T&E requirements for AUs, focus training requirements on the competency of the entire team, or revise the current 700-hour T&E

requirement for AUs based on pairing the AU with another individual with expertise in administering radiopharmaceuticals.

 Question 8: How should the AU's radiation safety responsibilities be clearly distinguished from other members of the team?

### 1. Radiopharmaceutical Team

Licensees would need a team to administer radiopharmaceuticals under 10 CFR 35.300. The team would minimally consist of an AU, a radiation safety officer, and a nuclear medicine technologist. Additional team members could include an authorized medical physicist, a health physicist, an authorized nuclear pharmacist, and other physicians that manage patient care. The T&E for the radiopharmaceutical team approach would be performance-based: licensees would develop policies and procedures to address how their teams would meet the requirements in 10 CFR 35.41 and 10 CFR part 20.

#### 2. Team AUs with Authorized Administrators

Licensees would need both an AU and an authorized administrator (AA) to administer radiopharmaceuticals under 10 CFR 35.300. AAs would be individuals authorized by the licensee to administer radiopharmaceuticals in accordance with the written directive (e.g., a nuclear medicine technologist or a nuclear medicine advanced associate). The T&E for AUs would be performance-based and focus on the licensee's policies and procedures for written directives, reporting medical events, and patient release criteria. Because AAs would be physically administering radiopharmaceuticals, AAs would be required to have training on radiation safety, written directives, preparation and administration protocols (or vendor training, if available), patient release criteria, and medical event reporting.

- - Question 9: How should the radiation safety responsibilities be divided between the AU and ANP?

### IV. Additional Questions for Consideration

The NRC is requesting input on the following questions as they relate to the draft approaches discussed above.

- Question 10: What are the advantages and disadvantages of the draft approaches?
- Question 11: Are there significant costs or benefits associated with any of the approaches?
- Question 12: Would any of the draft approaches impact patient access to radiopharmaceuticals or address stakeholder concerns of overly burdensome (regulatory) requirements?
- Question 13: For the draft approaches that consider tailored hours of T&E, what are
  the appropriate numbers of hours and what radiation safety topics should comprise the
  limited T&E?

- Question 14: Should the NRC consider inclusion of a formal radiation safety competency assessment and periodic reassessments for any of the draft approaches above? If so, who should establish and administer these assessments?
- Question 15: How would the draft approaches impact the medical organizations that use the NRC's T&E requirements as a basis for establishing their training programs?
- Question 16: Are there concerns regarding implementation and/or viability for any of the approaches discussed above?
- Question 17: Are there any unintended consequences of the draft approaches?
- Question 18: Which of the draft approaches best positions the NRC to effectively regulate future radiopharmaceuticals?
- Question 19: Should the NRC continue to play a role in the review and approval of AUs?

Dated at Rockville, Maryland, this 29th day of April 2019.

For the Nuclear Regulatory Commission.

#### /RA/

Andrea L. Kock, Director,
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State, and Tribal Programs,
Office of Nuclear Material Safety
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			Nuclear Medicine Technology Certification Board	3558 Habersham at Northlake Rd.		Tucker	GA	30084- 4009
			Thyroid Cancer Survivors' Association, Inc.	P.O. Box 1102		Olney	MD	20830- 1102
Dr.	Richard C.	Wender	Chief Cancer Control Officer	American Cancer Society	250 Williams St. NW	Atlanta	GA	30303
Dr.	Alan J.	Balch	Chief Executive Officer	Patient Advocate Foundation	421 Butler Farm Rd.	Hampton	VA	23666
			National Patient Advocate Foundation					
Dr.	George	Sledge, Jr.	Chief Scientific Advisor	Susan G. Komen	5005 LBJ Freeway, Suite 526	Dallas	TX	75244
Ms.	Karuna	Jaggar	Executive Director	Breast Cancer Action	275 Fifth St., Suite 307	San Francisco	CA	94103

			The Leukemia & Lymphoma Society		3 International Dr., Suite 200	Rye Brook	NY	10573
Ms.	Leah	Eshraghi	Dr. Susan Love Research Foundation	16133 Ventura Boulevard	Suite 1000	Encino	CA	91436
			Kidney Cancer Association	9450 SW Gemini Dr. #38269		Beaverton	OR	97008- 7105
Ms.	Patricia J.	Goldsmith	Chief Executive Office	CancerCare	275 Seventh Ave.	New York	NY	10001
			Pancreatic Cancer Action Network	1050 Connecticut Ave. NW, Suite 500		Washington	DC	20036
			Sarcoma Alliance	775 Blithedale Ave., #334		Mill Valley	CA	94941
			Sarcoma Foundation of America	9899 Main St., Suite 204		Damascus	MD	20872
Dr.	Cheryl	Healton	Board Chair	Lung Cancer Alliance	1700 K St. NW, Suite 660	Washington	DC	20006
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			American Association of Nurse Practitioners	Office of Government Affairs	1400 Crystal Drive, Suite 540	Alexandria	VA	22202
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				College of Arts and Sciences				
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