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May 4, 2015

Dear Ms Howe,

We received your request for feedback regarding the Nuclear Regulatory Commission intent to submit an information collection request pertaining to the best practices and guidelines in the treatment and release of patients receiving radioactive sodium iodine to treat a variety of thyroid disorders.

In 2008, the American Thyroid Association (ATA) assembled a multidisciplinary task force to formulate recommendations for ¹³¹I safety precautions. The guideline committee included representatives from the relevant disciplines, including Nuclear Medicine, Radiation Safety, Medical Physics, Endocrinology, and Endocrine Surgery. Liaisons from the Clinical Affairs and Public Health committees also assisted in the process. This ensured that all parties involved with the radioiodine treatments and safety of thyroid patients, their families, caregivers, and the public were included in the process. The guidelines complied with the Nuclear Regulatory Commission regulations and the International Radiation Protection Agency recommendations. The final document was officially endorsed by the: Academy of Molecular Imaging (AMI), American Association of Endocrine Surgeons (AAES), American Academy of Otolaryngology-Head and Neck Surgery (AAO-HNS), American College of Nuclear Medicine (ACNM), American Head and Neck Society (AHNS), Endocrine Society (ENDO), European Society of Endocrinology (ESE), International Radiation Protection Agency (IRPA), Latin American Thyroid Society (LATS), and Ukrainian Association of Endocrine Surgeons (UAES). The American College of Surgeons (ACS) and the American Congress of Obstetricians and Gynecologists (ACOG) acknowledge support of the document.

The [guidelines document](#) was published in the Journal "Thyroid" in 2011, and remains available in the ATA website under the "American Thyroid Association Professional Guidelines Section. A patient brochure was also created, and made available to physicians and patients at large on the ATA website. The "[Radioactive Iodine](#)" brochure be found under the "Public and Patients" section of the site by clicking on the "Thyroid Brochures" link.

Since 2011, we are not aware of substantial advances in the practice of releasing patients who receive radioactive iodine therapy to necessitate a new information collection at this time.

We remain available to work with the NRC on this information request as deemed necessary,

Respectfully,

Mona Sabra, MD
Clinical Affairs Committee Chair

Barbara Rath Smith, CAE
Executive Director