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Training and Experience Requirements for Different Categories of Radiopharmaceuticals

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Training and Experience Requirements for Different Categories of Radiopharmaceuticals

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## Submitter Information

**Name:** Isis Gayed

**Address:**

1100 Howard Ln  
 Bellaire, TX, 77401

**Email:** isis.w.gayed@uth.tmc.edu

## General Comment

I am a Nuclear Medicine Physician with over 23 years of experience with additional NM Technology certificate. I am teaching a large 55 radiology residents program throughout my entire career. I cannot emphasize enough how inadequate the 4 months required training in NM during radiology residency is for any radiologist to graduate and practice reading NM studies after graduation. Most of my radiology residents are uncomfortable reading NM studies independently or treating patients with radioactive iodine. We are giving them the best teaching and they are very smart residents but 4 months is definitely not enough to grasp the basics of knowledge to practice or run a NM lab. I definitely would like to see the training for any physician to be at least 1 year to be able to practice independently in the NM field. As most radiology residents take at least one year of fellowship in the different subspecialties of Radiology to be specialized in their Radiology practice, that should be applied to NM and no one should be allowed to practice NM without that one extra year of fellowship in NM in addition to the 4 months training during residency. Also I find it very unfair that the NM residents who spent 4 years training coming out of residency and finding no jobs for them because the market is saturated with radiology residents who did only 4 months of training and yet doing all the NM physicians work with much lower level of patient care and competency. This also results in mistrust of the referring MDs in the clinical impact and yield of NM studies to their patients. We are definitely harming the field of NM by allowing incompetent MDs practice NM.

Your attention to this matter is greatly appreciated.