

Are Radioisotope Shortages a Thing of the Past?

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ABSTRACT

Since June 2009, the NEA and its High-level Group on the Security of Supply of Medical Radioisotopes (HLG-MR) have examined the causes of $^{99}\text{Mo}/^{99\text{m}}\text{Tc}$ supply shortages and developed a policy approach to address those causes. The NEA has also reviewed the global $^{99}\text{Mo}/^{99\text{m}}\text{Tc}$ supply situation periodically, using the most up-to-date data from supply chain participants, to highlight periods of reduced supply and underscore the case for implementing the HLG-MR policy approach in a timely and globally-consistent manner. This paper presents the results from a $^{99}\text{Mo}/^{99\text{m}}\text{Tc}$ capacity and demand forecast, focusing on the potentially critical 2015-2020 period, when major producers in Canada and France are scheduled to exit the market. The modelling results indicate risks to reliable supply of $^{99}\text{Mo}/^{99\text{m}}\text{Tc}$ globally in the first half of the forecast period (2015-2017), while it is unclear whether new non-reactor-based projects will be able to scale up production on commercial terms and to what degree they will penetrate the market.