SNMMI Ongoing Efforts to Support Reliable Supplies of Mo-99 Produced Without HEU

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ABSTRACT

There are millions of diagnostic nuclear medicine imaging studies performed each year and Technetium-99m is used in 80% of these studies. The US consumes approximately one-half of the world’s supply of Mo-99, but currently has no domestic source. Supply interruptions of Mo-99 would, in many cases, result in patients receiving tests that are less accurate, more costly and have higher doses of radiation. The American Medical Isotopes Production Act (AMIPA) required conversion from HEU to non-HEU Mo-99 production by 2020. Further, it requires a domestic source of Mo-99 be developed. DOE has partnered with US commercial entities since 2009 to accelerate development of non-HEU technologies to produce US based Mo-99. Implementation of the AMIPA may be delayed if there remains insufficient global supply of non-HEU Mo-99 to satisfy domestic use. Companies have increased production and outage reserve capacity in order to maintain a stable supply. SNMMI continues its advocacy to assure that all stakeholders continue to work together to ensure a stable supply. SNMMI also continues to work with Medicare (CMS) and others to achieve adequate and appropriate reimbursement.