

# Perspectives on the Reliable Supply of Molybdenum-99

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Cardinal Health

Nuclear & Precision Health Solutions



# Speaker

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# Agenda

- Introduction and Company Overview
- Nuclear Pharmacy Operations
- US Supply Chain for Mo-99/Tc-99m Radiopharmaceuticals
- Perspectives on Reliable Supply
- Conclusion

# Company Overview



# Who we are



Over  
**36,000**  
employees  
worldwide

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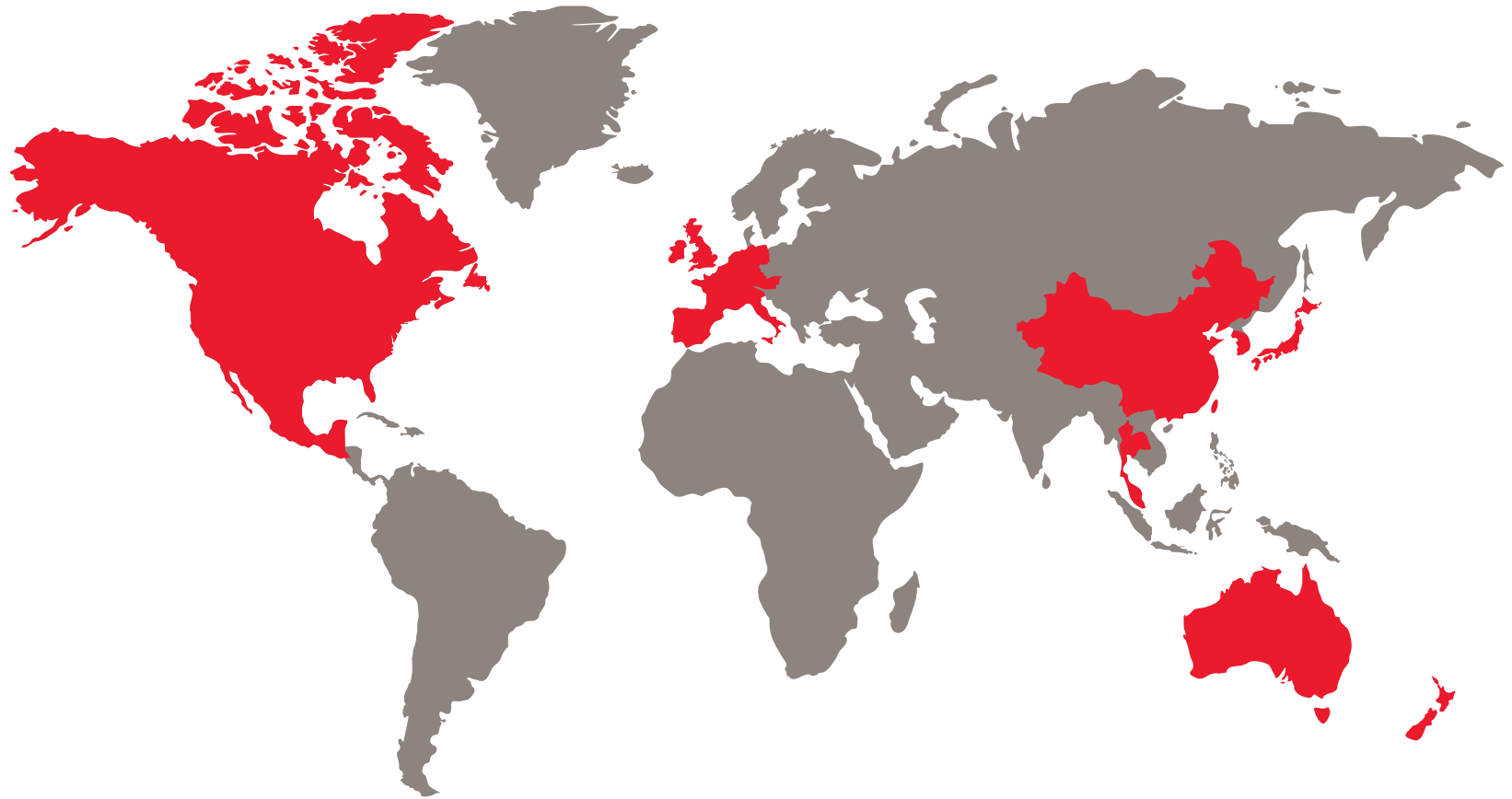
**#15**  
on the  
Fortune 500

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**\$100B+**  
annual revenue



# Where we are



**Corporate HQ = Dublin, OH**

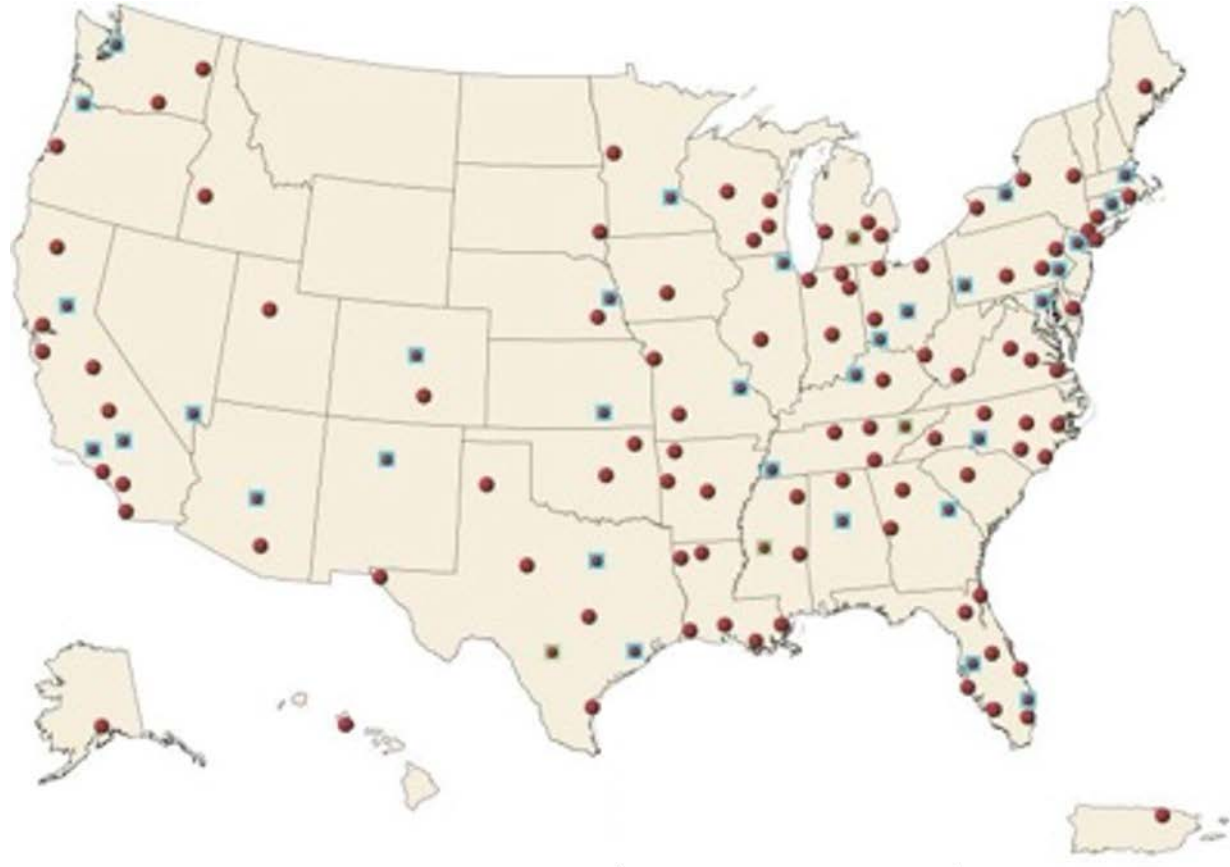


# Nuclear & Precision Health Solutions Overview

# Cardinal Health Nuclear & Precision Health Solutions

NPHS produces, dispenses and delivers radiopharmaceuticals throughout the US

- 130 nuclear pharmacies
- 30 PET biomarker manufacturing sites
- Collaborate with industry, trade and patient advocacy groups
- Ancillary products and services





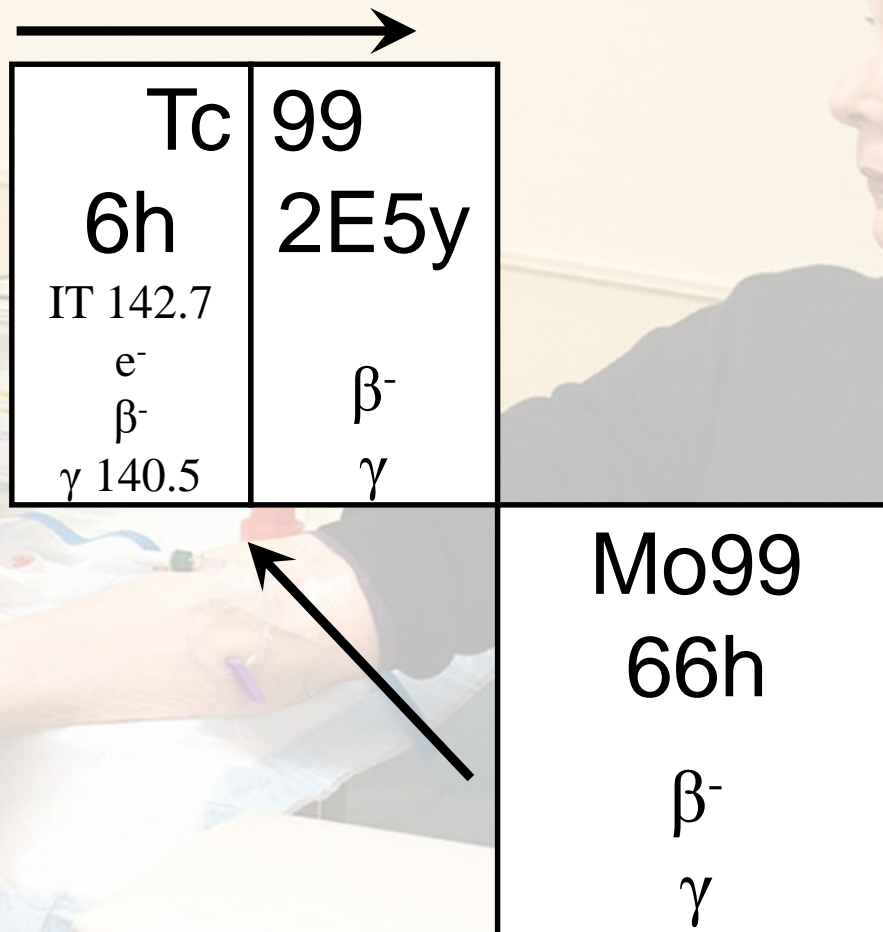
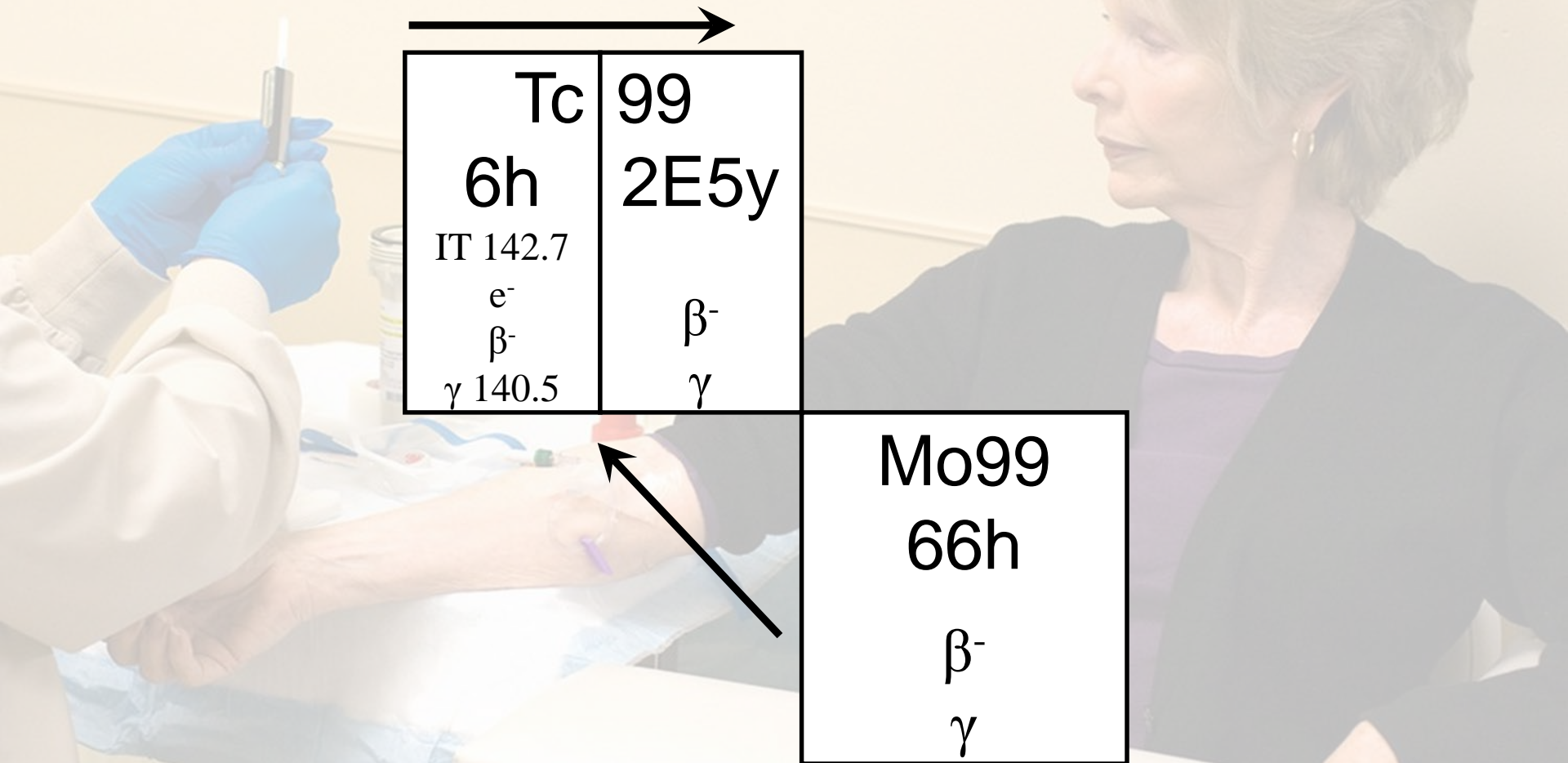


**CardinalHealth**  
*Essential to care™*

**Why are we here?**



# To provide the highest quality health care to our patients.





# Use of Mo-99 / Tc-99m in the US

There are about **18 million** nuclear medicine procedures per year in the US, 80% of which use Tc-99m.  
(SNMMI Sep 2015)

18 million per year x 0.8 / 365 d/y  $\approx$  40,000 per day

18 million per year x 0.8 / 255 d/y  $\approx$  56,000 per day

# Nuclear Pharmacy Operations

# What is a nuclear pharmacy?

- Nuclear pharmacies prepare and dispense radioactive drugs for human (and sometimes animal) use.
- Nuclear pharmacies employ licensed pharmacists and pharmacy technicians:
  - Must meet both US Nuclear Regulatory Commission requirements and State Board of Pharmacy requirements
- Support often provided by other professionals, such as health physicists.

# What is a nuclear pharmacy?

Nuclear pharmacies prepare radioactive drugs

- Most often by combining a radioisotope with a chemical compound to form a radiopharmaceutical
- In the case of Mo-99/Tc-99m generators:
  - Can dispense  $\text{NaTcO}_4$  directly
  - Most often combine Tc-99m with a radiopharmaceutical kit (“cold kit”)



# What is a nuclear pharmacy?



Shipped to a hospital or imaging facility





# Typical Day at a Nuclear Pharmacy

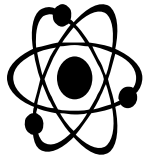
- Around midnight
  - First run staff arrive
- Early AM hours
  - Elute Mo-99/Tc-99m generators, prepare kits
  - Several dispensing and distribution runs
- ~7-8AM
  - Typical time for first patient diagnostic scans
- Late AM / early PM
  - Stat doses; add-on doses
- Afternoon
  - Order receipt, set-up for next day

# US Supply Chain

# Mo-99 Supply Chain



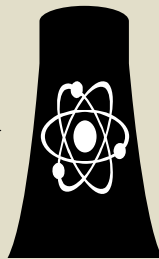
Target  
Production



Targets



Reactor

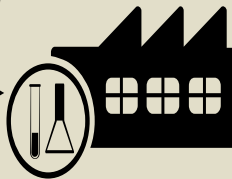


Targets  
irradiated

Irradiated  
targets



Processor

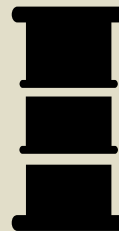


Process targets

Bulk  
Mo-99



Generator  
Manufacturer



Place Mo-99 in  
Tc-99m  
generator

Mo-99/Tc-99m  
Generators



Nuclear  
Pharmacy



Elute Tc-99m to  
prepare doses

Tc-99m Doses



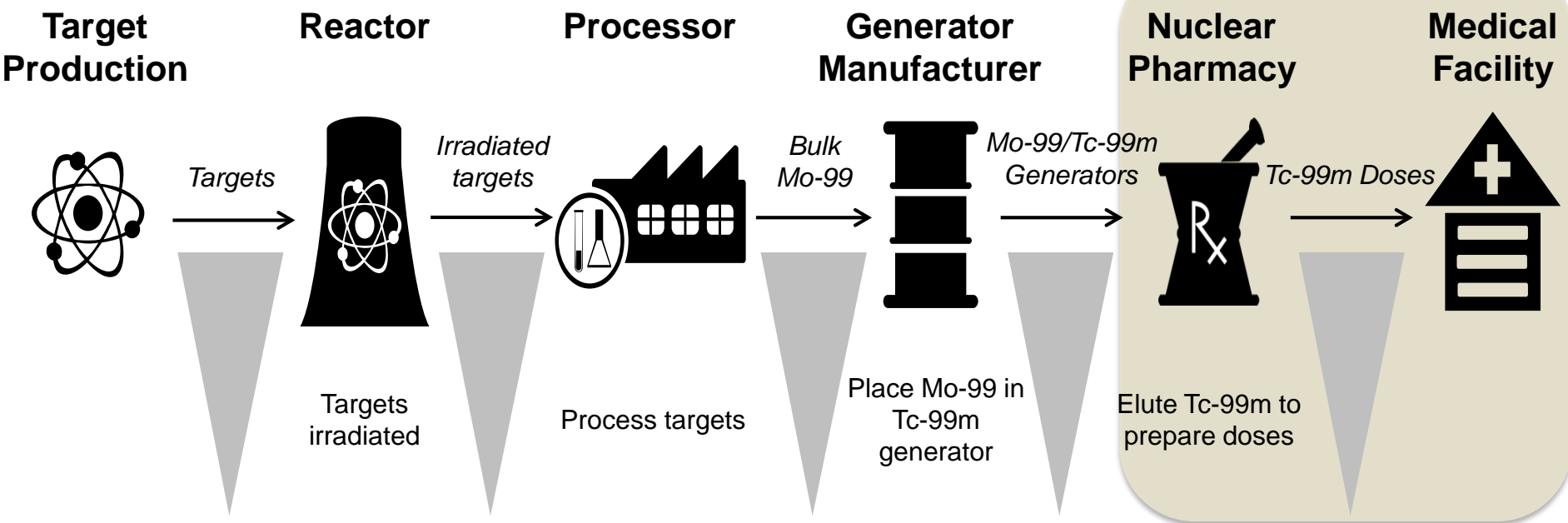
Medical  
Facility



# Tc-99m Supply Chain



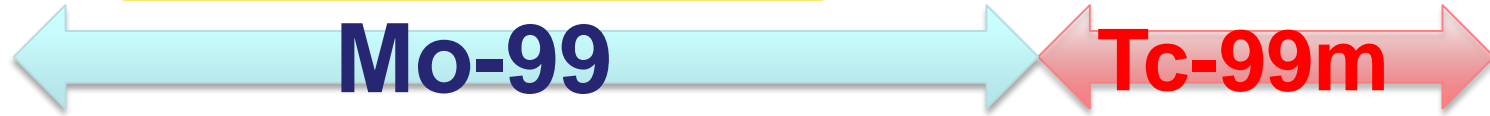
**Tc-99m**



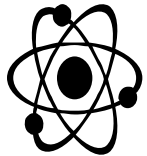
# Mo-99/Tc-99m Supply Chain

66h half life:  
12h delay = 12% product lost  
24h delay = 22% product lost

6h half life  
12h delay = \_\_\_\_\_

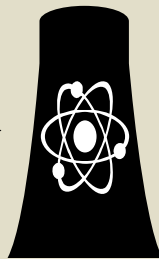


Target  
Production



Targets

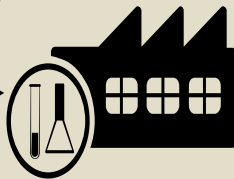
Reactor



Targets irradiated

Irradiated targets

Processor



Process targets

Generator  
Manufacturer



Place Mo-99 in Tc-99m generator

Bulk Mo-99

Mo-99/Tc-99m Generators

Nuclear  
Pharmacy



Elute Tc-99m to prepare doses

Tc-99m Doses

Medical  
Facility



# Isotopes typically handled by nuclear pharmacies:

Isotope	Half Life	Isotope	Half Life
Mo-99	66 h	F-18	110 m
Tc-99m	6 h	N-13	10 m
I-123	13 h	C-11	20 m
I-131	8 d	Ge-68	271 d
Xe-133	5 d	Ga-68	68 m
In-111	2.8 d	Ra-223	11 d
Tl-201	3 d	Sm-153	46 h
Ga-67	3.3 d	Others	vary

**PET**



# Tc-99m based radiopharmaceuticals

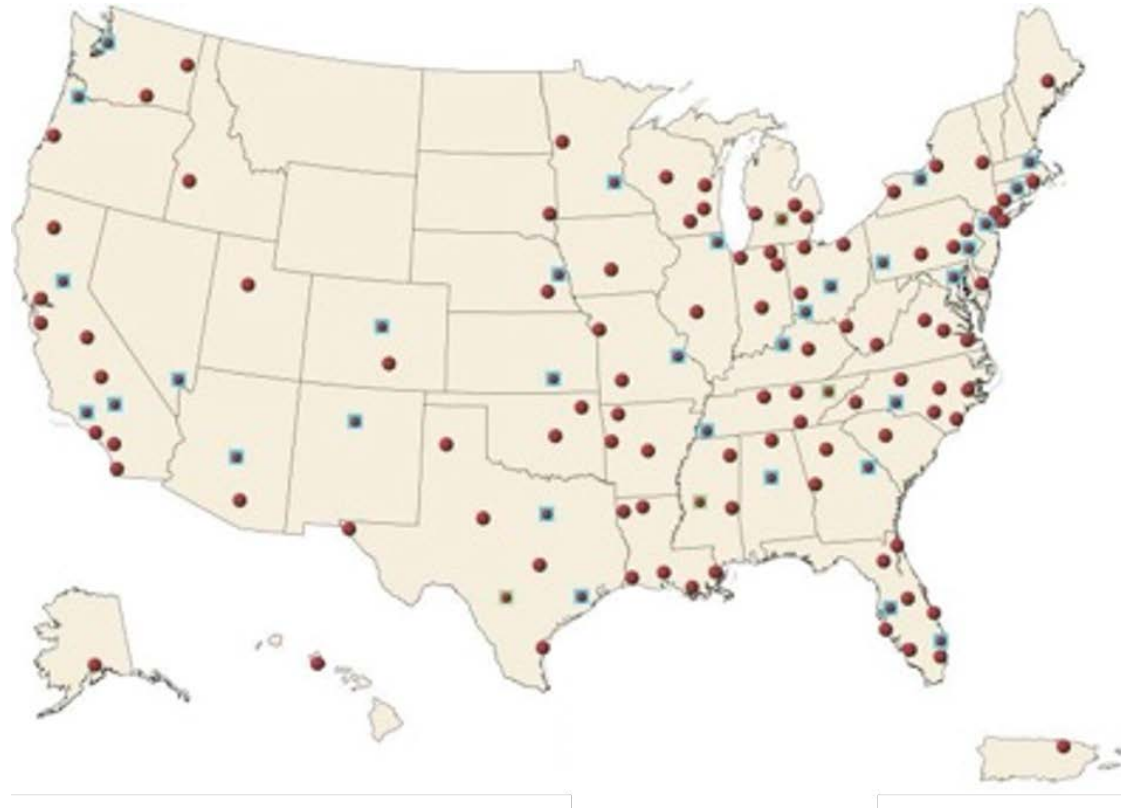
Mo-99 / Tc-99m

- NaTcO<sub>4</sub>
- Bicisate
- Disofenin
- DTPA
- Exametazine
- MAA
- MDP
- Mebrofenin
- Mertiatide
- Oxidronate
- Pyrophosphate
- Sestamibi
- Succimer
- Sulfur colloid
- Tetrofosmin
- Tilmanocept
- [...]



# Supply Chain Disruptions

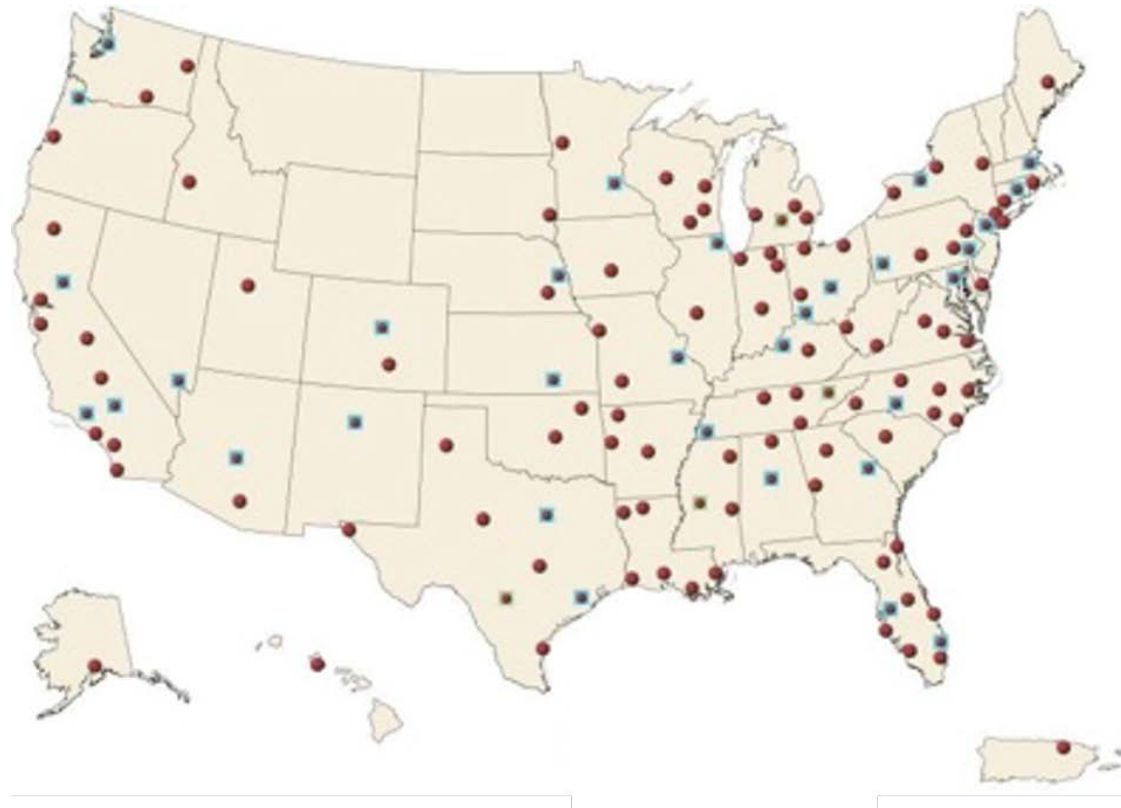
- Supply chain stability is critical to patient care
- Close communication and coordination with vendors, before and during any disruptions
- Contingency planning





# Supply Chain Disruptions

- Disruptions to the Mo-99 supply chain...
  - ...directly impact patient care
  - ...directly impact the modality
- Consequences
  - Strain on nuclear pharmacies
  - Strain on hospitals and outpatient facilities
  - Missed doses to patients
  - A reduction in the quality of medical care in the US



# Perspectives

***"Availability and stability of supply of Tc-99m is critical to public health."***

**FDA, Mo-99 Topical Meeting, Sep 24, 2018**



# Perspectives

- Supply chain stability is critical to patient care and to the modality
- The supply of Mo-99/Tc-99m generators to nuclear pharmacies in the US has had several interruptions over the past year
- This was and is further exacerbated by
  - A lack of domestic Mo-99 supply
  - Inadequate outage reserve capacity

# Perspectives

- Patient care in the US is being impacted based on overseas producers going off line.
- This not only impacts patient care, but it impacts overall trust and confidence in the modality.
- Are physicians starting to leave nuclear medicine?

# Perspectives

- AMIPA (2012) directed the DOE “...to evaluate and support projects for the production in the United States, without the use of highly enriched uranium, of significant quantities of molybdenum-99 for medical uses.”
- The transition from HEU to LEU Mo-99 is in support of non-proliferation initiatives, which we all support.

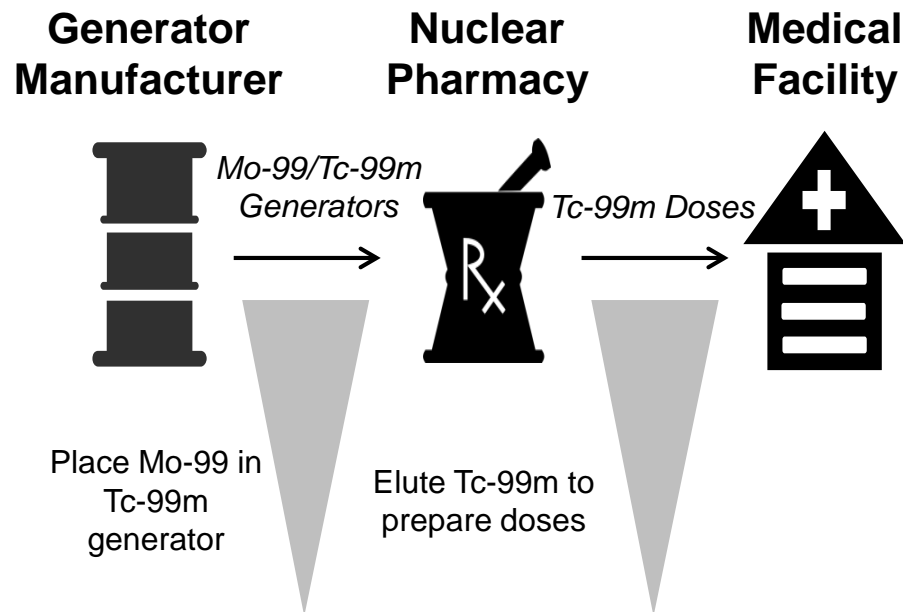
This transition needs to be carefully managed to reduce the likelihood of further supply interruptions or a shortage.

# Perspectives

- AMIPA (2012): “...production in the United States...”
- US-based production offers
  - Increased efficiency due to improved logistics
  - Reduced risk due to shorter logistics
  - Reduced risk due to international factors
- We urge continued support for domestic Mo-99 sources and for adequate outage reserve capacity

# Perspectives

- Customers are eligible for a \$10 reimbursement for use of LEU Tc-99m
- Consideration should be given to increasing the amount based on inflation and other factors





# Perspectives

- AMIPA addresses Mo-99 production, but nuclear medicine also uses other reactor-produced radioisotopes, such as I-131 and Xe-133.
  - I-131 has both therapeutic and diagnostic indications. Recent reports of shortages in certain international markets.
  - Xe-133 is a diagnostic imaging agent
- Supply chain instability can impact these products as well

# Perspectives

Good progress on HEU to LEU conversions...

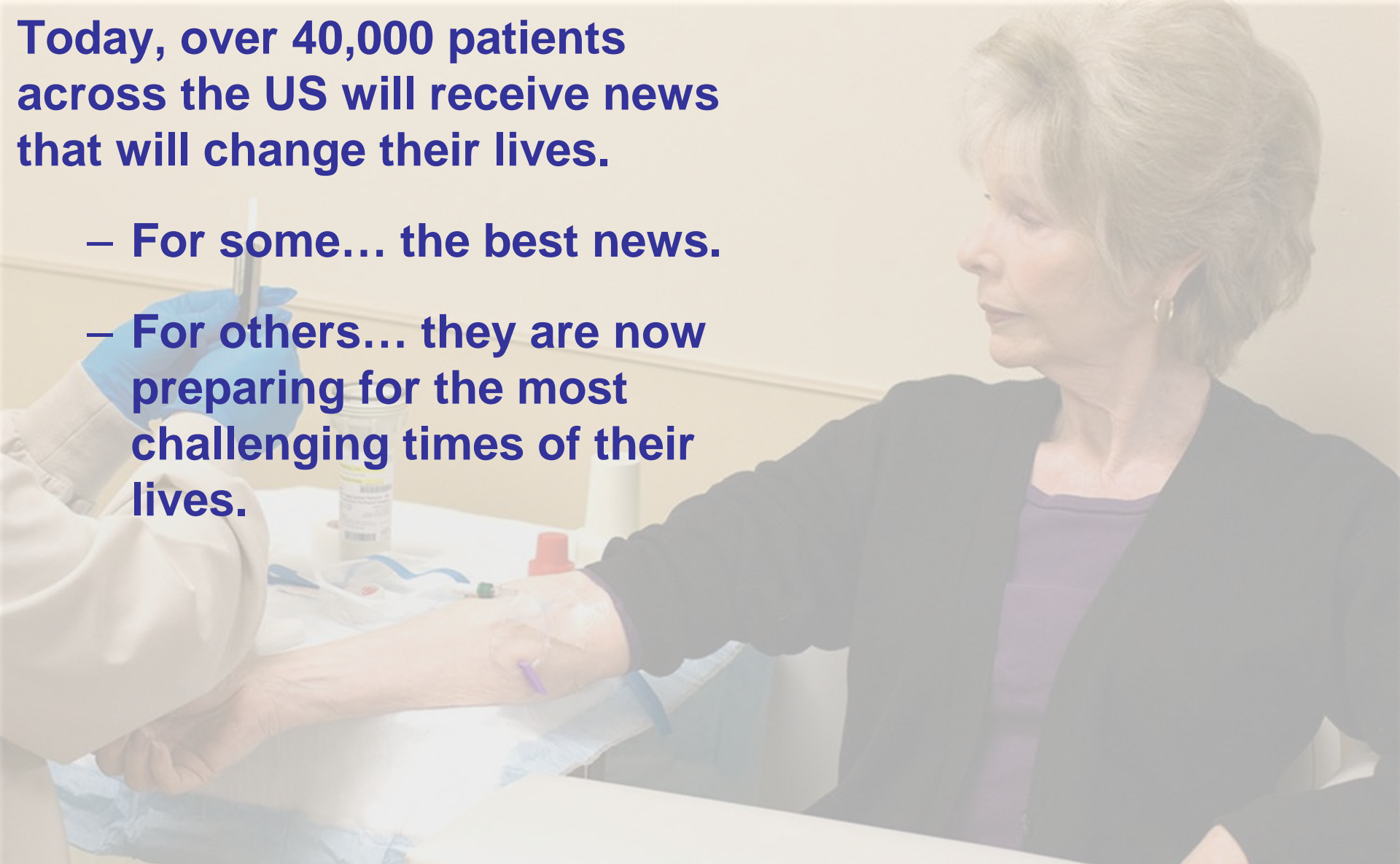
...but there is more work to be done on supply chain stability.

# Conclusion



**Today, over 40,000 patients across the US will receive news that will change their lives.**

- For some... the best news.**
- For others... they are now preparing for the most challenging times of their lives.**





**Thank you.**