News Briefs

NRC Promulgates Final Rule for 10 CFR 35

The US Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) published the final rule for the revision of "Medical Uses of Byproduct Material" (10 CFR 35) last fall (*Federal Register,* Oct. 16, 1986, pp. 36932–36968). The agency has withdrawn the requirement, effective April 1, 1987, that physicians use diagnostic radiopharmaceuticals for only those indications listed on the package insert.

[Once a drug is approved by the US Food and Drug Administration (FDA), physicians can use that drug for indications not listed on the package insert under the legal provisions for "the practice of medicine" in the US Food, Drug, and Cosmetic Act. Before the NRC revised 10 CFR 35, however, the one exception was radioactive drugs, which could be used only for approved indications.]

The NRC decided that this requirement "may have an adverse impact on the public health and safety because it prevents physicians from performing diagnostic clinical procedures needed by their patients."

As a separate project, the NRC is reviewing its physician training and experience criteria (see *Newsline:* March 1985, pp. 221–223; June 1985, pp. 557–558; May 1986, p. 590). Any proposed changes will be published for public comment as a separate rulemaking action.

The 10 CFR 35 revision also changed certain rules regarding misadministration reporting, supervision of licensed facilities, and amendments to licenses. *Newsline* will publish a more comprehensive report of these changes next month. ■

Radiation Committee Terminated by FDA

The US Food and Drug Administration (FDA) has announced the termination of the Medical Radiation Advisory Committee, effective September 15, 1986. The function of the radiation committee was to advise the FDA on the formulation of policies on medical radiologic techniques. The committee's functions will now be assumed by the Radiologic Devices Panel, another FDA advisory body. ■

Technologist Section Holds Its Last Annual Meeting in San Antonio

SNM Winter Meeting to Explore Perfusion

Perfusion Imaging: Instrumentation, Modeling, and Radiopharmaceuticals will be discussed in-depth at The Society of Nuclear Medicine's (SNM) Winter Meeting at the Hyatt Regency on the Riverwalk in San Antonio, TX. The program begins on Monday, February 2, 1987, with opening remarks by Michael M. Graham, PhD, MD, program chairman.

Although perfusion imaging may seem like a narrow topic, "it's an essential aspect of delivery of all radiopharmaceuticals, and one of the most active areas of current investigation—particularly in the search for the perfect heart and brain flow tracer," said Dr. Graham.

Kinetic data acquired from perfusion studies "is not easily interpreted," and requires considerable mathematical analysis," noted Dr. Graham. Special instruments have been developed for perfusion imaging, and general purpose equipment may need to be modified, he added.

Technologist Program

"With this being the last educational program for the Winter Meeting, it is our intention that the San Antonio meeting will be a spectacular event," said Bradley K. Pounds, CNMT, chairman of the Scientific and Teaching Sessions Committee of the SNM Technologist Section.

The 14th Annual Meeting of the Technologist Section will set the stage for a two-day program, February 1–2, on "Nuclear Medicine Technology: Past, Present, and Future." According to Mr. Pounds, "This program will enhance your knowledge of current clinical and administrative approaches to nuclear medicine, and will place significant developments in historical perspective."

For more information, contact: Education and Meetings Department, The Society of Nuclear Medicine, 136 Madison Avenue, New York, NY 10016-6760 (212)889-0717. ■