

#### 13.1.2 Nuclear Medicine Diagnostic Doses :

Patients receiving less than 5 millicuries of I-131 or receiving diagnostic doses of other radionuclides do not typically present radiation hazards. Precautions for these patients are minimal, use standard (formerly universal) precautions when caring for these patients and while handling any bodily fluids.

Patients who have received diagnostic studies in the Division of Nuclear Medicine contain small amounts of radiopharmaceuticals for varying times after treatment. Any body fluids will be radioactive. The policy for handling items contaminated with body fluids from these patients will be the same as that presently established for the hospital, e.g., disposable items will be appropriately bagged and incinerated. Linens and similar items will be red bagged and handled in the usual manner.

As long as all persons handling these items use standard precautions, i.e., gloves, wash hands well after handling, etc., no hazard will be presented by the very small amounts of radioactive material which may be present.

Note: This policy applies only to diagnostic tests -- not for radiopharmaceuticals given for therapeutic purposes.

In-patient charts will be labeled with the radiopharmaceutical and dose which has been administered. The purpose of these labels is to alert direct care providers that patients are potentially radioactive. The Radiation Safety Office should be contacted prior to lengthy operative or interventional

radiology procedures that require close contact with the patient for extended time periods.

1. The Nuclear Medicine technologist who administers the radiopharmaceutical will fill out the Nuclear Medicine precautions label with patient name, patient number, radiopharmaceutical administered dose, date and time of administration, and expiration date of precautions.
2. The label will be placed on the outside binder of the patient chart prior to the patient's return to the nursing floor.
3. The Radiation Safety Office, Ext. 46510, will be available for any and all questions pertaining to radioactive materials precautions. Radiation Safety will provide monitoring of staff if necessary.
4. The nursing floor should remove the sticker after the expiration date and time.

Isotope	Max. activity (mCi)	Half life	Label expiration
Ga-67	9	78 hours	8 days
Tc-99m	40	6 hours	1 day
In-111	5	2.8 days	8 days
I-131 outpatient	100	8 days	8 days
I-131 inpatient	300	8 days	8 days
Tl-201	4	73 hours	8 days