August 14, 2009

Dear Nuclear Medicine Professional,

Focused on patient care, Covidien is working to obtain molybdenum 99 (Mo 99) from sources around the world to mitigate shortages resulting from reactor shutdowns. Our efforts toward Mo 99 supply diversification coupled with increased production have helped significantly to meet demand and should continue to do so over the coming months. We also remain committed to open communication throughout this challenging situation.

This week Atomic Energy of Canada Limited (AECL) announced that repairs to the National Research Universal (NRU) reactor will now extend its return to service target to the first quarter of 2010. As previously announced, the High Flux Reactor (HFR) operated by Nuclear Research & consultancy Group (NRG) in The Netherlands is scheduled for an extensive repair shutdown in 2010. Current information from NRG has the HFR shutting down in early 2010 and it is expected to be offline for 22 to 26 weeks.2 In 2009, the Dutch government granted permission for HFR to continue operation (inclusive of periodic maintenance) only until March 1, 2010.

We anticipated the possibility of an unplanned overlap in reactor shutdowns early next year, which now appears likely. Our efforts continue toward maximizing Mo 99 supply arrangements with all viable sources. Based on the expected status of NRU and HFR in 2010, we estimate intermittent ability to fully meet existing customer orders (pre-NRU shutdown) mixed with periods of more severe shortages for technetium 99m (Tc 99m) generators. This variability will be due to already scheduled shutdowns of the remaining Mo 99 reactors from which we anticipate securing supply during that time.

In the meantime, you can help now and in the future by working with your local radiopharmacy to help conserve Tc 99m:

- Plan patient scheduling based on Covidien supply estimate calendars
- Adjust unit dose and bulk Tc 99m orders where allowable to receive doses as close to calibration time as possible, helping to expand patient reach
- Consider using other isotopes such as Thallous Chloride TI 201 Injection when clinically appropriate.

As additional updates are available, we will share them with you. To learn more about the current Mo 99 supply situation and related information, please visit the special update page on our web site at www.covidien.com/Mo99supply.

Sincerely,

John Collins
Vice President, U.S. Commercial Operations

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1NRU Status Report #16 - AECL provides updated guidance on NRU return to service. (last accessed August 14)
http://www.aecl.ca/NewsRoom/Community_Bulletins/090812.htm