March 10, 2010

Dear Nuclear Medicine Professional,

Covidien is pleased to announce that the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) has approved the use of the Maria Research Reactor (Maria) in Poland as a site to irradiate targets for Molybdenum 99 (Mo 99) production. Covidien will use the Mo 99 obtained from Maria in the manufacture of its Technetium 99m (Tc 99m) generators. Patients should begin to benefit from Maria-produced Mo 99 in the United States later this month.

On February 17, 2010, in Warsaw, Poland, Covidien and the Institute of Atomic Energy in Poland (IAE POLATOM) announced an agreement for Maria to begin supplying Mo 99. At the time, it was estimated that the Mo 99 supplied from Maria would help meet the needs of more than one million additional patients worldwide in just the first six months.

We applaud the FDA for their expedited review of our data, resulting in a quick approval. Their action is great news for patients who may have been facing longer delays in receiving critical nuclear medicine diagnostic procedures.

The approval comes with two of the now six major reactors that supply medical isotopes shut down for repairs: the High Flux Reactor (HFR) in the Netherlands and the National Research Reactor (NRU) in Canada. In addition to Maria, the remaining major reactors all continue to supply Covidien—the BR2 reactor in Belgium, the Osiris reactor in France and the Safari reactor in South Africa.

Even with this FDA approval, there will still be significant intermittent challenges to meeting world demand for Mo 99 as long as the NRU and HFR reactors remain off line for repairs. However, this regulatory action will allow Covidien to more efficiently utilize the available supply of Mo 99 from all sources, including Maria, and to equitably distribute it to the Americas, Europe and across the globe.

We remain committed to frequent communication throughout this situation, and will provide additional calendar updates later this month. To learn more about the current Mo 99 supply situation and Maria, please visit www.covidien.com/Mo99supply.

Sincerely,

Elaine E. Haynes, RPh
Vice President & General Manager, U.S. Commercial Operations, Imaging