Dear Nuclear Medicine Professional,

Covidien is very pleased to confirm the High Flux Reactor (HFR) in the Netherlands has returned to full power, as announced today by NRG, the reactor operator. We are also happy to report we expect to receive molybdenum 99 (Mo 99) from HFR-irradiated targets early next week—sooner than originally projected—for technetium 99m (Tc 99m) generator production. The updated Mo 99 supply forecast for the Americas is reflected below, with additional generator manufacturing beginning September 15 (always subject to change):

The resumption of full production by HFR will return the global Mo 99 supply chain to normal levels, helping to ensure all patients in need of this vital medical isotope will receive the diagnostic and therapeutic benefits they deserve.

Covidien will continue its investments to further secure the global supply chain. Examples include the recent agreement with the Maria Research Reactor in Poland; our participation on the steering committee for the new Pallas reactor in the Netherlands; and our partnership with Babcock and Wilcox Technical Services Group, Inc. These efforts will help ensure the future stability of Mo 99 production for patients worldwide.

As we move into the anticipated final few days of this supply shortage, you are again commended for your careful planning and cooperation throughout this long ordeal. Your efforts have benefitted the patients you serve, and we thank you for your continued support.

The cooperative efforts of the entire nuclear medicine industry these many months have illustrated the power of working together in the interest of patients. It is critical that we continue to collaborate as supply levels finally stabilize, ensuring nuclear medicine procedures are the modality of choice when most appropriate for patients. We look forward to continuing as your nuclear medicine partner.

We will provide confirmation once Tc 99m generator production derived from HFR Mo 99 fully resumes, along with any other communication updates that may be needed. In the meantime, you may visit our web site at www.covidien.com/Mo99supply to learn more.

Sincerely,

Elaine Haynes, RPh
Vice President, Imaging Commercial Operations, Americas

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1HFR Updates (last accessed 9/9/10) http://www.nrg.eu/hfr-repair/hfr-updates/