



DEPARTMENT OF THE NAVY
NAVY AND MARINE CORPS PUBLIC HEALTH CENTER
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21 APR 2011

From: Commanding Officer, Navy and Marine Corps Public Health Center
To: Distribution

Subj: NAVAL RADIOACTIVE MATERIALS PERMIT (NRMP) INFORMATION
NOTICE 2011-01: PREGNANCY STATUS VERIFICATION FOR NUCLEAR
MEDICINE STUDIES

Ref: (a) Title 10, Code of Federal Regulations (CFR), Part 35.3047

1. The Society of Nuclear Medicine Technicians (SMT) dictates that each technician must "Verify patient identification, pregnancy status, breast-feeding status, and written orders for the procedure" among other items. A pregnancy test is not required for diagnostic imaging studies. Currently MTF's use a dosing sheet for non-written directive orders which asks the patient if they are pregnant and the date of last menstrual cycle. Navy and Marine Corps Public Health Center (NMCPHC) is urging that a pregnancy test be conducted for all females if more than 10 days have elapsed since last menstrual cycle. If the patient declines to have a test conducted, a separate line on the form needs to clearly annotate such and have her signature for verification.
2. When I-131 is administered for therapeutic use, a written directive is required. The written directive mandates that a pregnancy test is performed to a woman of child bearing age that could be pregnant (fertile) to ensure compliance with reference (a). This test can be conducted using urinalysis or a blood sample to determine the presence of human chorionic gonadotropin (hCG). This hormone is produced by the placenta shortly after the embryo attaches to the uterine lining and builds up rapidly in your body in the first few days of pregnancy.
3. Both laboratory tests are not 100% accurate and are not very dependable in the first few days (up to 12 days) of implementation. However, a serum test will allow for a quantitative and qualitative count of hCG in the blood stream. For this reason, NMCPHC recommends using blood samples for conducting pregnancy verification for all doses that require a written directive.
4. Additional training for Nuclear Medicine Technicians shall be conducted to reemphasize the importance of pregnancy verification prior to administering any radionuclide. Particular importance should be stressed if greater than 10 days have elapsed since last menstrual cycle.

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5. Risk counseling shall be conducted for all fertile patients that decline to have a pregnancy test conducted. This risk statement should be included on the form with signature verification from the patient.

6. The International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) advises that the following notice should be posted at several places within the nuclear medicine department, and particularly at its reception area:

**IF IT IS POSSIBLE THAT YOU MIGHT BE PREGNANT, NOTIFY THE PHYSICIAN OR
TECHNICIAN BEFORE RECEIVING ANY RADIOACTIVE MATERIAL.**

7. Radiation Safety Officers shall ensure compliance prior to 16 May 2011. All updated forms, training and verification of IAEA recommended posting shall be forwarded to NMCPHC no later than 27 May 2011.

8. This letter shall be maintained on file with your NRMP and shall be considered as an integral part of your NRMP.

9. For additional information, please contact LT Terry D. Miles, Radiation Health Team Leader at DSN 377-0766 or (757) 953-0766, facsimile (757) 953-0670 or by e-mail at terry.miles@med.navy.mil.



B.A. COHEN

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