



March 10, 2010

**Bureau of Radiation Control
RADIOACTIVE MATERIALS SECTION
Information Notice 2010-02**

***Technetium 99m Shortage and the Calibration of Dose
Calibrators***

Effective immediately, all nuclear pharmacy licensees and medical licensees whose radioactive materials license requires the calibration of their dose calibrator with technetium 99m will be temporarily exempted from the requirements of 64E-5.614(4), Florida Administrative Code and any license condition having the same requirements as 64E-5.614(4), F.A.C., until the supplies of technetium 99m become more readily available.

All nuclear pharmacy licensees should share this information notice with their clients and advise them that they may obtain a copy directly from the Bureau of Radiation Control website located at www.doh.state.fl.us/environment/radiation/.

Florida determined that this information notice was needed to provide for temporary relief from the dose calibrator linearity testing requirement due to a national shortage of molybdenum-99. On May 14, 2009, the Chalk River National Universal Reactor in Canada was shutdown causing a 50 percent reduction of currently available molybdenum-99 in the U.S. In addition, the High Flux Reactor in Petten, Netherlands will be temporarily shutdown in early 2010. This reactor provides the U.S. with a substantial amount of molybdenum -99 used in the production of technetium-99m. Currently there are three other aging international reactors producing this isotope, all of which will be shut down periodically for routine maintenance during the times when the Canadian and Netherland reactors are also shutdown. During these isotope production shortfalls, medical licensees should use available technetium-99m for patient studies instead of for dose calibrator testing.