

October 17, 2011

TO: New York State Medical Use Radioactive Materials Licensees

**RE: Nuclear Medicine Technology – Scope of Practice Issues
(Notice No. BERP 2011-1)**

Dear Radiologic Technologist or Radioactive Materials Licensee:

The purpose of this notice is to address apparent misunderstandings and/or misinterpretations of nuclear medicine technologist scope of practice issues, and avoid findings of noncompliance and potential suspension or revocation of a license or registration. Please distribute this notice to all Authorized Users (physicians named on a radioactive materials license for medical use), practice managers, appropriate administrators and licensed nuclear medicine technologists.

The following issues regarding the scope of practice for licensed nuclear medicine technologists (NMT) have frequently been asked of Department staff and/or have been identified during routine inspections. The law and regulations that govern the Practice of Radiologic Technology are in Article 35 and Part 89, respectively, of the Public Health Law.

1. Licensed Nuclear Medicine Technologists may start an IV line only for the purpose of administering radiopharmaceuticals. They may use an existing line if it is appropriate for administration of the radiopharmaceutical. They may also inject a saline flush following the administration of the radiopharmaceutical in accordance with directions from the Authorized User.
2. No other pharmaceuticals may be administered by the nuclear medicine technologist even if administration of that pharmaceutical is considered a standard part of the procedure. This includes, but is not limited to, pharmaceuticals such as Lasix, Persantine or Dobutamine. Practitioners who direct technologists to administer drugs other than radiopharmaceuticals are aiding and abetting the unlawful practice of another and may be subject to disciplinary proceedings against their license.

3. There are two provisions for individuals to become authorized to perform fusion imaging. An individual who is licensed and registered as both a radiographer and a nuclear medicine technologist may perform fusion images. The second option is for a licensed nuclear medicine technologist to pass the American Registry of Radiologic Technologists (ARRT) post primary examination in CT. In both cases an Authorized User must acknowledge in writing that this technologist is competent to operate the equipment without personal supervision. In New York State an individual must be a student in a Department approved radiologic technology program to obtain the clinical training (imaging of humans) required to take the ARRT's exam.

If you have any questions, you can contact this office by phone at 518/402-7580, e-mail us at berp@health.state.ny.us or write to:

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Sincerely,



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