

Isotope Shortage Survey Final Results
June 2009

The Society of Nuclear Medicine (SNM) conducted this survey with the intent of collecting anecdotal information from those impacted by the shortage of Mo-99 caused by the June 2009 shutdown of the National Research Universal (NRU) Reactor in Chalk River Canada. In particular, we were looking for information from those who may be experiencing reduced, or no shipment of generators during the shutdown. This information will be used to help SNM develop strategies as we begin to approach decision makers about the impact of this problem. Total respondents: 1217

Please indicate your primary place of practice.

Hospital: 56.29 %
Outpatient imaging facility: 27.94%
Commercial pharmacy: 7.64%
Hospital pharmacy: 0.74%
Other: 9.2%

Has or is your practice/facility impacted by the molybdenum-99 shortage?

Yes: 90.71%
No: 7.98%
N/A: 0.58%

Do you have access to an alternate technetium generator source?

Yes: 29.66%
No: 64.17%
N/A: 6.41%

If you answered "yes", what is your alternate technetium generator source?

Another hospital: 0.49%
Another commercial pharmacy: 18.08%
Another manufacturer: 11.5%
Other: 2.79%

What percentages of your normal full capacity are you currently able to operate?

0-25%: 6.66%
26-50%: 19.56%
52-75%: 35.66%
76-100%: 38.21%

When, if ever, do you think you will be down to zero percent capacity during this shortage?

Within a week: 4.6%
Within two weeks: 6.33%
Within three weeks: 4.93%
Within a month: 12.57%
Longer than one month: 7.64%
Never: 61.71%



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If you answered "longer than one month", please indicate how much longer you anticipate being down to zero capacity? (109 responses)

2-6 Months: 29.35%
6-12 Months: 3.66%
12+Months: 6.42%
Unsure/Don't know: 60.55%

Approximately how many patients per week receive nuclear medicine scans/procedures before August 2008 at your facility?

0-250: 87.9%
251-500: 3.91%
501-1000: 1.52%
1000+: 3.53%

Approximately how many patients are now receiving nuclear medicine scans/procedures at your facility?

0-250: 90.4%
251-500: 3.03%
501-1000: 1.89%
1000+: 1.7%

Please indicate any and all changes that were made regarding patient care in response to this shortage?

Postponement of procedure: 60.48%
Cancellation of procedure: 32.29%
Change in procedure: 43.8%
Change in isotope used: 50.94%
Transfer of patient to another facility: 4.77%
Other: 15.04%

If you answered "postponement of procedure" to the last question, please indicate how long the procedure was postponed? (717 responses)

Less than 1 week: 36.54%
1-2 weeks: 44.7%
2-4 weeks: 6.55%
More than four weeks: 2.51%

If you answered "change in procedure", please indicate the procedures that were substituted. (967 responses)

TI-201 for Tc: 48.97%
F-18 Fluoride for bone scan: 4.11%
Rb-82 for Tc: 2.38%
Other non-nuclear procedure: 15.94%
Other: 8.05%