SAFETY GUIDELINES FOR I-131 THERAPY

A. Nuclear Medicine or Radiodiagnosis and Therapy is to notify the UCDHS Health Physics Office as soon as the patient is definitely scheduled for therapy.

B. Nuclear Medicine or Radiodiagnosis and Therapy makes arrangements for properly locating the patient in a room designated for radionuclide therapy as approved by the UCDHS Health Physics Office.

C. On the day before the treatment, Nuclear Medicine or Radiodiagnosis and Therapy informs the UCDHS Health Physics Office of the time of treatment. The room must be prepared by Health Physics personnel prior to treatment. See the following instructions for I-131 Therapy Room Preparation and Clean-up (Form 12).

D. After administration of the dose, the physician fills out Doctor's Orders for I-131 Therapy (Form 13-pertinent sections only). This form is to be placed in the physicians' and nurses' charts and posted in the ante room.

E. If the patient is dosed outside of the patient’s room, Nuclear Medicine or Radiodiagnosis and Therapy will notify the UCDHS Health Physics Office as soon as the patient has been dosed and admitted to his/her room. If the patient is to be dosed in his/her room, Nuclear Medicine or Radiodiagnosis and Therapy will notify the UCDHS Health Physics Office sufficiently in advance that a Health Physics technical staff member can be present for the administration of the radiopharmaceutical.

F. The UCDHS Health Physics Office will monitor the patient after treatment and record the results of exposure rate measurements and working/visiting times on Forms 13 and 14. The patient should also be monitored every 24 hours after treatment.

G. The UCDHS Health Physics Office will be available to the patient, and the nursing and medical staff to answer questions about radiation safety and will properly post the room and charts as follows:

   Form 13 & 14: 1 copy in physicians' chart
                    1 copy in nurses' chart
                    1 copy in ante room

   "Caution-Patient Contains Radioactive Materials" sticker on Nurses' and Physicians' charts.
   Caution sign on door posting visiting times.
   Caution sign on door warning Environmental Services and Dietary personnel.

H. When exposure rate measurements dictate, the Health Physics Office will notify Nuclear Medicine or Radiodiagnosis and Therapy that the patient can be released. In addition, the patient's nurse, the charge nurse, ward clerk, and discharging physician will be notified by Health Physics personnel.

I. Upon release, the patient is monitored by the UCDHS Health Physics Office and the form, "General Safety Guide and Instructions for Patients Receiving Radioiodine Therapy", Form 9 or 10 (depending on the estimated residual activity) will be presented to the patient as well as any other pertinent information.

J. After the patient has been discharged, the Health Physics Office will implement decontamination and monitoring procedures. When the room is ready to be released for general use, the ward clerk and charge nurse will be notified.