



January 14, 2010

Dear Nuclear Medicine Professional,

Covidien is doing everything possible to lessen the combined impact of the Canadian reactor shutdown<sup>1</sup> and the planned six-month repair to the Netherlands' High-Flux Reactor scheduled to begin on February 19<sup>2</sup>. While expected molybdenum 99 (Mo 99) supply from the remaining three on-line reactors is still being finalized, we have a clearer picture for the month of March to share with you to aid patient scheduling. Here is the outlook as we now see it for the Americas:

- From March 1 through March 20, the majority of our generator standing orders are expected to be met with no extra supply, with some impact to unit dose technetium 99m (Tc 99m).
- **There will be NO Covidien generator production from Sunday-Thursday, March 21-25, due to lack of Mo 99 supply. This lack of Mo 99 will be market wide globally, not just for Covidien. All five major medical isotope reactors in Europe, Canada and South Africa will be off-line during this period.**
- Covidien generator production for the Americas should resume on Friday, March 26. However, the remainder of March will be only marginally better, with no more than 20% of needed Mo 99 supply expected. Covidien will distribute the available generators as fairly as possible to maximize patient access globally during this period of extreme shortage.

On a positive note, the outlook for April is moderately improved over March. We expect to have an April update and a daily view of March by the end of this month to share with you. The previous relationships we have with the remaining reactors—including an increased number of irradiation targets we secured for our Petten Mo 99 processing needs—will be beneficial in supplying Mo 99 for our generator production in the coming months.

Continued industry-wide adoption of Covidien's successful Tc 99m conservation program is encouraged, with clinicians taking a more thoughtful approach to unit dose Tc 99m ordering. You are applauded for your careful scheduling of patients, providing greater access to those most critically in need. We also continue to boost production of thallous chloride Tl 201 for those procedures where it can be a clinically appropriate substitute.

Covidien is pursuing all additional Mo 99 supply options to improve the outlook for March and beyond, helping to ensure the broadest availability of this crucial isotope to patients worldwide. As the situation evolves, we will continue to keep you informed. To learn more about the current Mo 99 supply situation and related information, please visit [www.covidien.com/Mo99supply](http://www.covidien.com/Mo99supply).

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Elaine E. Haynes".

Elaine E. Haynes, RPh  
Vice President & General Manager  
U.S. Commercial Operations, Imaging

1. NRU Status Report #34 - AECL provides update on NRU activities (accessed 1/13/10) [http://www.aecl.ca/NewsRoom/Community\\_Bulletins/100113.html](http://www.aecl.ca/NewsRoom/Community_Bulletins/100113.html)  
2. Repair of cooling water pipework High Flux Reactor will commence on 19 February 2010 (accessed 1/13/10) <http://www.nrg.eu/general/nieuws/2009/20091215en.html>  
Updates are posted to the AECL site each Wednesday, where you may check back for status reports.