

Dear Sir, Madam,

The OECD Nuclear Energy Agency is seeking for your assistance on a study we are undertaking to assess future demand of molybdenum-99 (^{99}Mo) and its decay product, technetium-99m ($^{99\text{m}}\text{Tc}$), the most widely used medical radioisotope.

As you are aware, over the past few years the world has seen shortages of ^{99}Mo and $^{99\text{m}}\text{Tc}$. Since 2009, the OECD Nuclear Energy Agency (NEA) has been involved in global efforts to ensure a reliable supply of ^{99}Mo and $^{99\text{m}}\text{Tc}$, working with international experts and nuclear medicine stakeholders.

One issue that has arisen during the NEA's work is the uncertainty around future demand for $^{99\text{m}}\text{Tc}$. This uncertainty increases the risk of making investments in long-lasting $^{99\text{m}}\text{Tc}$ production infrastructure. As a result, the NEA is seeking to better understand long-term future demand for $^{99}\text{Mo}/^{99\text{m}}\text{Tc}$, including any lasting impact of the recent shortages on this future demand.

Forecasting is not easy, especially when the future horizon is far ahead in time. However, it is important to get an understanding of what actions need to be taken today to meet tomorrow's demand. To ensure the best forecast possible, the NEA is inviting experts from a wide range of related disciplines to respond to the survey.

The NEA would be grateful if you could ask your members to complete a survey on the future medical demand for $^{99\text{m}}\text{Tc}$. Your members' responses will be important for policy and decision making processes that can affect the future production of $^{99\text{m}}\text{Tc}$. The survey should take only 15-20 minutes to complete.

To access the survey please go to: www.surveymk.com/s/99mTcsurvey (will link you to the survey at survey monkey or copy and paste in your internet browser). The survey is available immediately and will be available for responses until Sunday, 20 March 2011.

The NEA has no commercial interest in the findings of this survey. The results of the survey will be used to establish a future demand scenario. The scenario will be made publically available once completed.

Also, could you please email the NEA (at chad.westmacott@oecd.org) to let them know if your association would be willing to forward this request to your members?

About the work of the NEA on medical radioisotopes

The collective efforts of the NEA, its international experts and nuclear medicine stakeholders have allowed for a comprehensive assessment of the key areas of vulnerability in the supply chain and an identification of the issues that need to be addressed. We have completed a number of reports that provide information on the economics of the supply chain, other issues affecting the supply chain, and a review of technologies to produce ^{99}Mo and $^{99\text{m}}\text{Tc}$.

For more information about the NEA's work related to medical isotopes, please visit www.oecd-nea.org/med-radio.

About the NEA

The Nuclear Energy Agency (NEA) is a specialised agency within the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD), an intergovernmental organisation of industrialised countries, based in Paris, France.

The mission of the NEA is to assist its Member countries in maintaining and further developing, through international co-operation, the scientific, technological and legal bases required for the safe, environmentally friendly and economical use of nuclear energy for peaceful purposes.

If you or your members have any questions concerning this survey or the work of the NEA, please feel free to contact the NEA at:

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My best regards and I hope that you will help us to obtain responses to this survey.

Chad



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www.oecd-nea.org