



Hheads of the European Radiological
protection Competent Authorities

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Date:	2011/12/08
Title:	Patient release card

Summary:	Proposal for a patient release card after a therapeutic application of radionuclides approved by the Board of Heads (BoH) of HERCA at the occasion of its 8 th meeting held in Bern on 8 December 2011. It is a complementary document to the “ ¹³¹ I therapy: Patient release criteria” already adopted by the BoH at the occasion of the 5 th HERCA meeting held in Oslo on 30June-1 July 2010..
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HEADS OF EUROPEAN RADIATION CONTROL AUTHORITIES, WG ON MEDICAL APPLICATIONS

Patient release card

Throughout Europe, tens of thousands of patients benefit from treatments by radiopharmaceuticals containing iodine-131 every year. Their numbers continue to rise.

Iodine -131, used as iodide, serves as a highly selective and very efficient treatment for patients who suffer from either benign functional thyroid disorders or from thyroid cancer. In addition, ¹³¹I in alternative chemical forms is used for the treatment of other malignant diseases such as neuro-endocrine tumors (I-131-MIBG) and primary liver cancer. (I-131-lipiodol).

A document entitled : “ ¹³¹I therapy : patient release criterias” has previously been approved by HERCA. In this document, point 2-6 of the practical rules says :

“At hospital, before releasing the patient, the medical practitioner makes sure that a declaration is handed over to the patient, stating that a given activity (X MBq) of I-131 was administered to the patient at a given moment (date) and informing where further explanations can be obtained (contact details). This declaration is provided in English and, where applicable, also in the local language(s).”

According to that statement, when a patient is released from a nuclear medicine ward, a “card” or a “paper” should be given to him. This information sheet will be referred to as a “card” further on, whatever the actual form might be used .

The aim of the information, given in this “card” is to contribute in assuring a better radiation protection after the release of patients treated with ¹³¹I. It can help avoiding unnecessary exposure of health professionals, undertakers and members of the public.

The card could also prove to be useful when people are detected as being “radioactive” when passing through a radiation detection gate control, such as the ones used at airports, seaports, nuclear installations, waste treatment facilities, etc. .

The “card” should be drawn up in English, in particular for the purpose of cross-border use. One or more local languages can be added on top, since they may be not only legally required in some countries, but also desirable for the sake of transparency and intelligibility.

The card must list different informative items :

- identification of the patient
- identification of the radionuclide involved, the activity administrated and the date of administration
- contact details of the medical practitioner responsible for the treatment, where further information can be required, if needed. In practice, depending on the State member regulation, the practitioner may delegate this responsibility to an assigned collaborator, e.g. a medical physicist.

A proposal of such a card, drawn up in English only, is given in the annex. A template of such a card is available on the HERCA protected website and from the National Authorities participating in HERCA (http://www.herca.org/participating_auth.asp).. .

Annex :

Medical Treatment Card

The under named patient has undergone a medical treatment with a radioactive substance. This person left the treatment unit after verification according to International safety standards. Radiation safety can therefore be guaranteed, provided the instructions given to the person are observed.

Patient ID	Radioactive substance :
Full name:	Isotope:
Address:	Time of administration DD/MM/YYYY Activity administrated : MBq


National authority address and logo

This card should be carried at all times until dd/mm/yyyy

In case of emergency

Information about this patient can be given by :

Contact	:	X
Institution	:	Y
Phone number	:	0000000000000000
Email	:	

HERCA 

Card developed by: Heads of the European Radiological protection Competent Authorities

This card should be carried at all times until dd/mm/yyyy