



## PHILIPPINE SOCIETY OF NUCLEAR MEDICINE, INC.

Accredited Specialty Division of the Philippine Medical Association  
Affiliate Society of the Philippine College of Physicians

Secretariat : Unit 209 One Beatriz Tower Condominium,  
#4 Lauan St., Brgy. Duyan-duyan, Project 3, Quezon City, 1102  
Cellphone Nos. : 0966-9765676; 0919-2478464  
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Email Address : [philnucmed@gmail.com](mailto:philnucmed@gmail.com)

### The Philippine Society of Nuclear Medicine (PSNM) Position Statement and Guide on the Practice of Modern Theranostics in the Philippines

#### **Premise**

Theranostics pertaining to the use of Gallium-68 / Fluorine-18 and Lutetium-177 radio-pharmaceuticals is a rapidly expanding field worldwide. It is currently *not included* in the nuclear medicine residency and fellowship training curricula in the Philippines. Its logistics, costs, preparations, patient profiles, and multidisciplinary team involvement are different compared to those of the widely available iodine-131. Due to its relative novelty, the Australasian Association of Nuclear Medicine Specialists, European Association of Nuclear Medicine, Society of Nuclear Medicine and Molecular Imaging (in North America), and International Atomic Energy Agency have released publications to standardize the practice of theranostics. The importance of experiential training is emphasized by all four esteemed international organizations.

#### **Objectives**

- 1) To promote the safe medical use of Ga-68 and Lu-177 radiopharmaceuticals
- 2) To support the provision of high-quality care by qualified professionals according to international and national standards
- 3) To highlight the responsibility of the theranostics specialist in the multidisciplinary team
- 4) To minimize wastage of radiopharmaceuticals

#### **Regulatory Basis**

The regulatory basis for the medical use of unsealed radioactive material (RAM) is a RAM license, in accordance with the Code of PNRI Regulations Part 13. Prerequisites for applying for a RAM license include the existence of adequate infrastructure, competent personnel, sufficient means of radiation protection, and processes for discharge management of treated patients and handling of radioactive waste. According to VI Section 38, an authorized user should have a certification by a medical specialty board, a 200-hour PNRI-approved radiation safety training, and at least 2 years of *relevant clinical training and experience*.

#### **Training and Experience Requirements**

A nuclear medicine physician intending to practice theranostics should meet the following qualifications:

- 1) Board certification by the Philippine Specialty Board of Nuclear Medicine, AND
- 2) Certification of peptide receptor radionuclide therapy (PRRT) and PSMA radioligand therapy (PRLT) training in high-volume centers such as those in Europe and Australia, OR

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- 3) Certification/s of peptide receptor radionuclide therapy and PSMA radioligand therapy training elsewhere (USA, any country in Asia including the Philippines, etc.) with specified number (total of 25 or more therapy administrations), and signed by the mentor and medical director (or equivalent), AND
- 4) Participation/attendance in regional training courses and other continuing medical education/continuing professional development activities

### **Accreditation**

The Ad Hoc Committee on Theranostics, as designated by the PSNM Board of Officers and Directors, and the Accreditation Committee of the PSNM will take on the task of accrediting qualified theranostics specialists and theranostics centers as follows:

#### *General*

- 1) Those meeting requirements 1, 3 and 4

#### *Advanced*

- 1) Those meeting requirements 1, 2 and 4 or
- 2) Theranostics practitioners with personal census of >120 PRRT/PRLT administrations signed by the department manager (or equivalent)

### **Criteria for Theranostics Center Training Accreditation**

To be an accredited theranostics center for training in the Philippines, the following conditions must be satisfied:

- 1) Approved training program
- 2) Availability of a multidisciplinary team onsite
- 3) Adequate staffing – at least 1 advanced accredited theranostics specialist onsite, nurse, technologist, radiopharmacist, medical physicist
- 4) Existence of properly written protocols and work instructions, based on published international guidelines
- 5) Patient census – at least 35 PRLT/PRRT administrations a year

### **Liability**

The names of accredited theranostics specialists and centers will be posted on the PSNM official website and Facebook page. False advertisement, misrepresentation or any form of unethical practice will be sanctioned by the Ethics Committee of the PSNM.

### **Implementation**

Rules set herein are effective immediately on August 1, 2022. These will be reviewed and may be revised every year or as deemed necessary.

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### References

- 1) *Australasian Association of Nuclear Medicine Specialists (AANMS) Position Statement on the Practice of Theranostics in Australia (Version 1, February 2021)*
- 2) Lee ST, Emmett L, Pattison DA, et al. *The Importance of Training, Accreditation and Guidelines for The Practice of Theranostics: The Australian Perspective. Journal of Nuclear Medicine, published on April 7, 2022 as doi:10.2967/jnumed.122.263996*
- 3) Herrmann K, Giovanella L, Santos A, et al. *Joint EANM, SNMMI and IAEA Enabling Guide: How to Set Up a Theranostics Centre. Journal of Nuclear Medicine, published on April 21, 2022 as doi:10.2967/jnumed.122.264321*
- 4) *Revised Regulation: CPR Part 13, "Licenses for Medical Use of Unsealed Radioactive Material" Department of Science and Technology, Philippine Nuclear Research Institute, Nuclear Regulatory Division. 20 June 2014.*

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