

# Medication Administration in Nuclear Medicine: Physician Support On-Site

## Purpose

This document provides the standard to be followed to ensure a physician is available on site to respond and manage adverse events related to administration of medication by nuclear medicine medical radiation technologists (MRTs) in Nuclear Medicine (NM).

## Site Applicability

**Richmond Hospital in Nuclear Medicine**

## Practice Level

| Profession                                        | Role                                                                          |
|---------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| NM Physician/Radiologist Site Department Head     | Delegate on site physician support when not available on site                 |
| Physician Delegate (i.e. MI department physician) | Be available on site to respond to a patient in the event of an adverse event |
| Nuclear Medicine MRT                              | Notify NM Physician or physician delegate in the event of an adverse event    |

## Need to Know

The College of Physicians and Surgeons of British Columbia [Diagnostic Accreditation Program](#) (DAP) Standards for delegation of medical acts (DMS4.0) state that the degree of medical supervision is required.

The [Administration of Medication by Nuclear Medicine Technologists](#) DMA states that “the supervising physician must be present within the immediate vicinity, available to monitor the patient and manage any reactions or side effects for the entire time required to complete the medication administration”.

## Standard

- A NM Physician/Radiologist or physician delegate is required to be on site and available to attend and manage adverse events when NM Technologists are administering medications to patients as an adjunct to a NM exam
- It is the responsibility of the Nuclear Medicine site department head to assign a physician delegate to be on site in the event that a NM physician/Radiologist is not on site.
- The hours that the NM physician/Radiologist is not available on site is established and communicated to the delegated physician and associated program (e.g. medical imaging department or staff).
- It is the responsibility of the NM physician/Radiologist to document and communicate contact information for the delegated physician to NM staff.
- There is an established process for response from the physician delegate when an adverse event occurs in nuclear medicine related to medication administration. See [Appendix A](#).

## Documentation

In the event of an adverse event, the NM technologist will document in the patient electronic health record the name of the attending (Delegate) physician.

## Related Documents

### Related Policies

- Allergy Documentation Policy (VPP). Available at:  
[http://shop.healthcarebc.ca/CST\\_Documents/Allergy%20Documentation%20Policy.pdf](http://shop.healthcarebc.ca/CST_Documents/Allergy%20Documentation%20Policy.pdf)
- Anaphylaxis: Initial Emergency Treatment by Nurses (Adult & Pediatric) Clinical Decision Support Tool (PHSA). Available at:  
<http://shop.healthcarebc.ca/phsa/PHSAPOD/Professional%20Practice/C-99-04-20404.pdf>

### Guidelines/Procedures/Forms

- Administration of Medications by Nuclear Medicine Technologists DMA. Available at:  
[https://one.vch.ca/dept-project/lower-mainland-medical-imaging/Documents/MINM-121031-01\\_Administration\\_of\\_Medications\\_by\\_NM\\_Technologists.pdf](https://one.vch.ca/dept-project/lower-mainland-medical-imaging/Documents/MINM-121031-01_Administration_of_Medications_by_NM_Technologists.pdf)
- Adverse Event Guidelines in Medical Imaging. Available at: [https://one.vch.ca/dept-project/lower-mainland-medical-imaging/Documents/LMMI-Adverse\\_Reactions\\_Guidelines.pdf](https://one.vch.ca/dept-project/lower-mainland-medical-imaging/Documents/LMMI-Adverse_Reactions_Guidelines.pdf)
- Adverse Event Management in Medical Imaging (Adult) Poster. Available at:  
[https://one.vch.ca/dept-project/lower-mainland-medical-imaging/Documents/Management\\_Adverse\\_Events\\_MI\\_Poster.pdf](https://one.vch.ca/dept-project/lower-mainland-medical-imaging/Documents/Management_Adverse_Events_MI_Poster.pdf)
- Adverse Reactions: Reporting and Documentation by MRTs and Sonographers. Available at:  
[https://one.vch.ca/dept-project/lower-mainland-medical-imaging/Documents/ABCD-21-12-90017\\_Adverse\\_Reaction\\_Reporting\\_and\\_Documentation.pdf](https://one.vch.ca/dept-project/lower-mainland-medical-imaging/Documents/ABCD-21-12-90017_Adverse_Reaction_Reporting_and_Documentation.pdf)
- Emergency and Medical Treatment Iridia Guidelines. Available at:  
[https://one.vch.ca/dept-project/lower-mainland-medical-imaging/Documents/Iridia\\_Emergency\\_Medical\\_Protocols.pdf](https://one.vch.ca/dept-project/lower-mainland-medical-imaging/Documents/Iridia_Emergency_Medical_Protocols.pdf)

## References

College of Physicians and Surgeons of BC. Diagnostic Accreditation Program Standards (2024). Retrieved from: <https://www.cpsbc.ca/accredited-facilities/dap/accreditation-standards-DI>

## Appendices

- Appendix A: [On-Site Physician Support for the Response and Management of Adverse Events related to the Administration of Medication in Nuclear Medicine at Richmond Hospital.](#)

# **APPENDIX A: On-Site Physician Support for the Response and Management of Adverse Events related to the Administration of Medication in Nuclear Medicine at Richmond Hospital.**

| <b>Medication Administration: Physician Support in Nuclear Medicine at Richmond Hospital</b> |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                         |
|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>Profession</b>                                                                            | <b>Role &amp; Responsibilities</b>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                      |
| NM Physician/Radiologist                                                                     | Available by phone for consultation with NM staff (e.g. patient contraindication) in the event that a NM physician/Radiologist is not on site                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                           |
| Physician delegate at Richmond Hospital                                                      | On site and available to respond to adverse events related to medication administration:<br>Monday to Friday from 0800hrs to 1600 hrs                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                   |
| NM MRT                                                                                       | Ensure contact details for delegating physician are available prior to starting NM procedure involving medication administration.<br>Contact the physician delegate when a patient is experiencing an adverse event in NM<br>OR<br>Initiate a Code Blue for a patient requiring urgent/critical support.<br>In the event that the physician delegate cannot be contacted, NM staff should not delay care and take the patient directly to the emergency department for care and/or initiate a code blue if appropriate. |

D-21-15-90221

|                          |                                 |                                 |                                   |                      |                                          |
|--------------------------|---------------------------------|---------------------------------|-----------------------------------|----------------------|------------------------------------------|
| <b>Effective Date:</b>   | 16-JAN-2024                     |                                 |                                   |                      |                                          |
| <b>Posted Date:</b>      | 16-JAN-2024                     |                                 |                                   |                      |                                          |
| <b>Last Revised:</b>     | 12-JAN-2024                     |                                 |                                   |                      |                                          |
| <b>Last Reviewed:</b>    | 12-JAN-2024                     |                                 |                                   |                      |                                          |
| <b>Approved By:</b>      | RH NM Physician Department Head | RH NM Physician and Radiologist | RH MI Radiologist Department Head | RH & UPCC MI Manager | Regional NM Medical Practice Lead, MI    |
|                          | 08-DEC-2023                     | 08-DEC-2023                     | 02-JAN-2024                       | 04-JAN-2024          | 04-JAN-2024                              |
| <b>Owners:</b>           | RH NM Supervisor                |                                 |                                   |                      |                                          |
|                          | NM Regional Practice Lead, MI   |                                 |                                   |                      |                                          |
| <b>Revision History:</b> | <b>Version</b>                  | <b>Date</b>                     | <b>Description/ Key Changes</b>   |                      | <b>Revised By</b><br>(Name and Position) |
|                          | 1.0                             | 16-JAN-2024                     | Initial release                   |                      | Rhonda Hollerbaum, NM RPL                |