

Healthcare Sector News Byte

PETNET Prepared to Address NaF Production Shortages

Knoxville, Tenn., June 5, 2009 – PETNET Solutions, a wholly-owned subsidiary of Siemens Medical Solutions USA, Inc., has reported that it is prepared to increase production and availability of ¹⁸F Sodium Fluoride (NaF) to replace Technetium for MDP bone scans. The company has taken appropriate steps to help offset shortages of molybdenum, which can result in limited availability of ^{99m}Tc-labeled radiopharmaceuticals.

The temporary closure of the National Research Universal (NRU) reactor at Chalk River in Ontario last week, has threatened the global supply of medical isotopes. After a heavy water leak was discovered following a power outage in the area, the 52-year-old reactor, which supplies approximately one-third of the world's medical isotopes, shut down and is expected to be closed for eight months while repairs are being considered.

The facility's closure could further disrupt the supply of technetium-99 used in MDP bone scans for the diagnosis and treatment of cancer, as medical facilities that require the isotopes in their diagnostic imaging procedures must now find new supply sources, while using the limited supply for emergencies only.

With more than 52 molecular imaging radiopharmacies and distribution centers at multiple worldwide locations, PETNET is well prepared to increase production and availability of NaF to meet the needs of hospitals, clinics, and research facilities.

The **Siemens Healthcare Sector** is one of the world's largest suppliers to the healthcare industry. The company is a renowned medical solutions provider with core competence and innovative strength in diagnostic and therapeutic technologies as well as in knowledge engineering, including information technology and system integration. With its laboratory diagnostics acquisitions, Siemens Healthcare is the first integrated healthcare company, bringing together imaging and lab diagnostics, therapy, and healthcare information technology solutions, supplemented by consulting and support services. Siemens Healthcare delivers solutions across the entire continuum of care – from prevention and early detection, to diagnosis, therapy and care. Additionally, Siemens Healthcare is the global market leader in innovative hearing instruments. The company employs around 49,000 people worldwide and operates in 130 countries. In the fiscal

year 2008 (Sept. 30), Siemens Healthcare reported sales of €1.2 billion, orders of €11.8 billion, and Sector profit of €1.2 billion. Further information can be found by visiting <http://www.siemens.com/healthcare>.