

## BOOK REVIEW

National Council on Radiation Protection and Measurements.

NCRP Report No.70

NUCLEAR MEDICINE - FACTORS INFLUENCING THE CHOICE OF RADIONUCLIDES  
IN DIAGNOSIS AND THERAPY (1982)

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Maryland 20814, USA, 180pp.

The Report has gathered in one volume a concise listing of the important parameters to be evaluated in assessing patient benefit and radiological safety in the practice of Nuclear Medicine. It will be of benefit to anyone involved in decision making in this branch of Medicine, e.g. Nuclear Medicine clinicians, Hospital Ethics Committees, Hospital Physicists, Radiopharmacists and even those to whom high cost Capital Purchase proposals are submitted. It describes in systematic order the underlying principles in the design of radiopharmaceuticals and nuclear detection instrumentation in sufficient detail to educate the reader without boring him or losing him in unnecessary mathematical complexities. The chapter on Radiation Dosimetry contains useful worked examples and a good bibliography for those requiring further reading. The Report is of U.S. origin and therefore represents current legislative practice in the USA. Whilst many aspects of this are appropriate throughout the world and the general concepts described are of universal applicability, it should be remembered that other National Regulatory authorities may apply different rules in their areas of responsibility. This may apply particularly in Institute or Practitioner Licensing and in the Approval of Clinical Trials and of new Radiopharmaceuticals. The text is up-to-date in its description of instrumentation in general terms and it would be inappropriate for such a report to be more specific. Similarly its review of available radiopharmaceuticals is current in terms of FDA approved products although slightly out-of-date in areas with less rigorous regulatory requirements. The title of the Report adequately and accurately describes its contents but many readers may have preferred more specific guidance on decision making from a body with so much expertise at its disposal.

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