28.03.2020

Dear SNMI Members and Nuclear Medicine Practicioners,

In this time of crisis, when the situation around us throws a lot of questions and uncertainties, we, as the umbrella body of Nuclear Medicine would like to make certain recommendations:

1. Nuclear Medicine services, which include conventional nuclear medicine (Gamma Camera-based), PET/CT and Radioisotope therapy, can be suspended until further notice; as per the decision of Institution and practitioners associated.

2. Nuclear Medicine Departments shall offer their services in cases of emergency, subject to availability of radioisotope and adequate manpower; and with complete adherence to the protocols for handling patients with or suspected to be infected with COVID-19.

Society of Nuclear Medicine India has formulated this recommendations based on the recent issues of non-availability of radioisotope from both government and private cyclotron suppliers. In addition, due to suspension of air services and closure of airports, radionuclide generators or other centrally produced radioisotopes cannot be transported to centers across the country.

Nuclear Medicine practice involves isolation of patients in a limited area, which poses a risk of transmission of infection. Nuclear Medicine services are offered at standalone centres, which have limited manpower and support to handle such crisis, and hence suspension of services is a logical step, keeping with the widely accepted principles of containment and social distancing.

These recommendations are guiding principles for Nuclear Medicine practitioners to make a decision, and concurrence with them is not mandatory.

Keep Safe. Keep Distance.

For,
Society of Nuclear Medicine India

Dr Ameya Puranik,
Secretary, SNM India

Dr Baljinder Singh
President, SNMI