(A) Policy Statement

Patients undergoing the administration of I-131 requiring admission or implantation of Cs137 or Ir192 therapeutic radioactive material shall be held in radiation isolation in a private room, preferably on nursing unit 4CD. This location may be changed upon the medical decision of the radiation oncologist and attending physician, if an alternative location is clinically more appropriate. The Radiation Safety Office must be notified immediately of the change. Any change in this policy must be submitted to the Radiation Safety and Radioisotope Committee. Implants using I-125 or Pd-103 do not require radiation isolation.

(B) Purpose of Policy

To provide the safest environment possible for patients, health care workers and visitors.

(C) Procedure

1. If a radiation therapy procedure involving the administration of I-131 or implantation Cs137 or Ir192 of radioactive material is to be performed soon after admission, the admitting physician is to request a private radiation isolation room on 4CD unless an alternative location is clinically more appropriate. This is to be done when writing admission orders. If the room is not on unit 4CD, the Radiation Safety Office must immediately be notified of the location.

2. If the radiation therapy procedure involving the administration of I-131 or implantation of Cs137 or Ir192 radioactive material is decided upon sometime after admission and the patient is not already in a private room on 4CD, the radiation oncologist shall request a room transfer to a radiation isolation room on 4CD, unless an alternative location is clinically more appropriate. If the room is not on unit 4CD, the Radiation Safety Office must immediately be notified of the location.

3. The Admission Office shall be notified as early as possible and preferably thirty-six hours in advance of the anticipated procedure.

4. If during the implantation procedure, the attending physician and/or radiation oncologist deem a specialty unit room be necessary, they are to notify the Admitting Office and Radiation Safety Office immediately so that a room may be secured as soon as possible.