

MEDIA RELEASE
Thursday 12 September 2019

Update on nuclear medicine production at ANSTO

Statement as of 3.30pm on Thursday 12 September

The following can be attributed to an ANSTO spokesperson:

“After working with our international partners, ANSTO can confirm we will be able to supply a limited amount of the nuclear medicine known as molybdenum-99 from next week,” said the spokesperson.

“We expect that the amounts from overseas will gradually increase over the next three weeks, starting with 10 per cent of normal supply from next week and working up to around a third of normal supply by early next month. We will have more information at that point.

“ANSTO will continue to work with the Nuclear Medicine Working Group (NMWG) to assign the supplies of nuclear medicine in a way that minimises impact on Australian patients. Details are in the statement below.

“Both investigations and work are continuing to safely progress mechanical repairs within ANSTO’s ANM facility.”

Previous statement issued at 9am on Thursday 12 September

“ANSTO has temporarily ceased manufacture of the nuclear medicine known as molybdenum-99 in our ANM manufacturing facility after a fault was detected with a valve last Friday,” the spokesperson said.

“There are no safety implications, and supply of the medicine we had already made was distributed on Monday to Australian hospitals and nuclear medicine clinics.

“Given that production has temporarily ceased, impacts on the future availability of nuclear medicine are expected.

“A nuclear medicine working group, which comprises key groups within the nuclear medicine community, has been formed and is making recommendations on how to distribute existing supplies most equitably.

“ANSTO is also reaching out to international partners to explore the possibility of importing medicine whilst repairs are being undertaken.

“ANSTO is working with people who designed and constructed the nuclear medicine facility to fully understand the cause of the mechanical defect, and safely rectify the issue.

“Manufacturing will resume after the fault is safely and properly rectified. We will keep the regulator and nuclear medicine community informed as we work to rectify this issue.

“ANSTO would like to acknowledge the support of the members of the Nuclear Medicine Working Group with representation from RAINS, ANZSNM, AANMS, NSW Health and GMS.”

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