A. Purpose:

To promulgate procedures for evaluating the credentials of physicians who wish to use or prescribe radioactive materials for diagnosis and/or therapy.

Physicians involved in the use of radioactive materials in the healing arts have the following special responsibilities:

1. Examination of a patient and medical records to determine if a radiation procedure is appropriate;
2. Prescription of the radiation dose and how it is to be administered;
3. Actual use of, or direction of other paramedical personnel in the use of radioactive materials; and
4. Interpretation results of diagnostic procedures and evaluation results of therapy procedures.

Any physician who intends to use or prescribe the use of radioactive materials for diagnosis or therapy must be approved by the Columbia University Joint Radiation Safety Committee (JRSC) as an Authorized User.

B. Applicability/scope

This policy applies to all physicians who wish to use radioactive materials in the healing arts at any location or facility under the jurisdiction of the JRSC.

C. Definitions

- FFR – Fellow of the Faculty of Radiology
- FRCR – Fellow of the Royal College of Radiology
- JRSC – Columbia University Joint Radiation Safety Committee
- NRC – U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission

D. Procedures

1. Physicians may be approved as authorized users for one or more of the following methods
   - Uptake, dilution, or excretion studies
   - Imaging and localization studies
   - Use of sealed sources for diagnosis
   - Therapeutic use of radiopharmaceuticals or radiobiologics
   - Therapeutic use of brachytherapy sources
   - Ophthalmic use of strontium-90
   - Sealed sources for diagnosis
   - Teletherapy
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- Gamma stereotactic radiosurgery

2. Specific training requirements for each are found in Appendix A.

3. The following documents should be forwarded to the Radiation Safety Officer:
   - Letter from department chairman or physician in charge requesting specific privileges
   - Current New York State medical license
   - Curriculum vitae

4. Physicians who are board certified in an appropriate medical discipline should submit documentation of current certification. See Appendix A for list of approved certifying organizations. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) Form 313a should also be submitted as appropriate (see Appendix B). **Note: please ensure that Part II – Preceptor Attestation is filled out and signed by the preceptor as appropriate.** A physician certified as British “Fellow of the Faculty of Radiology” (FFR) or “Fellow of the Royal College of Radiology” (FRCR) should submit a copy of the certificate and evidence of specialization.

5. If a physician has been previously authorized for medical use and wants to use only material permitted by a previous license issued by New York City Health Department Bureau of Radiological Health, agreement state, or U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission, submit a copy of the license on which the physician was specifically named as an authorized user.

6. Physicians not previously authorized by New York City Health Department Bureau of Radiological Health or other licensing agency and not board certified must submit a complete description of their training and experience using the appropriate NRC Form 313a (see Appendix B). **Note: please ensure that Part II – Preceptor Attestation is filled out and signed by the preceptor as appropriate.**

7. The Radiation Safety Officer shall review the application materials submitted and make recommendation to the Chairman of the JRSC regarding approval of the application. The Chairman will review and approve the application as appropriate. The Chairman will notify the JRSC of approval at the next meeting.

8. If the application is not approved, the physician will be notified in writing.

9. Approval as an Authorized User does not expire. However, the physician granted these privileges must maintain a current license to practice medicine in New York State and maintain board certification if such was used to support the application.

10. Privileges will be terminated upon termination of employment at institution(s) licensed to use radioactive materials under the jurisdiction of the JRSC.

**E. Responsibilities**

1. Department Chair/physician in charge – nominate physician in writing to the Chair of the JRSC

2. Physician requesting privileges – complete application and supply required documentation to Radiation Safety Officer

3. Radiation Safety Officer – review application for completeness and make recommendation to Chair of JRSC for approval, maintain application, record of approval and current board certification and medical licensure.
4. Chair of JRSC – review application and approve privileges as appropriate. Notify JRSC at next meeting.

F. Emergency contact – N/A

G. Medical Surveillance – N/A

H. Recordkeeping

Application and record of approval shall be maintained on file as long as the physician remains an Authorized User. Records shall be updated as necessary by Radiation Safety personnel to ensure that current copies of New York State medical license and current board certification are on file.

I. Appendices
Appendix A
Training Requirements
and
Certifying Organizations

1. Uptake, dilution, or excretion studies – is certified in
   • Nuclear Medicine by the American Board of Nuclear Medicine; or
   • Diagnostic Radiology by the American Board of Radiology; or
   • Diagnostic Radiology or Radiology by the American Osteopathic Board of Radiology; or
   • Equivalent training as described in New York City Department of Health Code Article 175.103j(3)(ii).

2. Imaging and localization studies – is certified in
   • Nuclear Medicine by the American Board of Nuclear Medicine; or
   • Diagnostic Radiology by the American Board of Radiology; or
   • Diagnostic Radiology or Radiology by the American Osteopathic Board of Radiology; or
   • Equivalent training as described in New York City Department of Health Code Article 175.103j(4)(ii).

3. Therapeutic use of radiopharmaceuticals or radiobiologics – is certified by
   • American Board of Nuclear Medicine; or
   • American Board of Radiology in Radiology, Therapeutic Radiology, or Radiation Oncology; or
   • Equivalent training as described in 175.103j(5)(ii).

4. Therapeutic use of brachytherapy sources – is certified in
   • Radiology, Therapeutic Radiology, or Radiation Oncology by the American Board of Radiology; or
   • Radiation Oncology by the American Osteopathic Board of Radiology; or
   • Radiology, with a specialization in radiotherapy, as a British “Fellow of the Faculty of Radiology” or “Fellow of the Royal College of Radiology”; or
   • Therapeutic Radiology by the Canadian Royal College of Physicians and Surgeons; or
   • Equivalent training as described in 175.103j(6)(ii).

5. Ophthalmic use of strontium - 90 – is certified in
   • Radiology, Therapeutic Radiology, or Radiation Oncology by the American Board of Radiology; or
   • Equivalent training and experience as described in 175.103j(7)(ii).

6. Sealed sources for diagnosis – be a physician, dentist, or podiatrist who is certified in
   • Radiology, Diagnostic Radiology, Therapeutic Radiology; or
   • Radiation Oncology by the American Board of Radiology; or
   • Nuclear Medicine by the American Board of Nuclear Medicine; or
   • Diagnostic Radiology or Radiology by the American Osteopathic Board of Radiology; or
   • Equivalent training as described in 175.103j(8)(ii).

7. Teletherapy – is certified in
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- Radiology, Therapeutic Radiology, or Radiation Oncology by the American Board of Radiology; or
- Radiation Oncology by the American Osteopathic Board of Radiology; or
- Radiology, with a specialization in radiotherapy, as a British “Fellow of the Faculty of Radiology” or “Fellow of the Royal College of Radiology”; or
- Therapeutic Radiology by the Canadian Royal College of Physicians and Surgeons; or
- Equivalent training and experience as described in 175.103j(9).
Appendix B

Application Checklist

**Board Certified**
[ ] Letter from department chair or physician in charge requesting privileges
[ ] Current New York State Medical License
[ ] Curriculum vitae
[ ] Board certification
[ ] NRC Form 313a
   [ ] Nuclear Medicine/Nuclear Cardiology: 313a(AUD) (http://www.nrc.gov/reading-rm/doc-collections/forms/nrc313a%28aud%29.pdf)
   [ ] Nuclear Medicine Therapy: 313a(AUT) (http://www.nrc.gov/reading-rm/doc-collections/forms/nrc313a%28aut%29.pdf)
   [ ] Radiation Oncology: HDR, Gamma Knife, Brachytherapy, Ophthalmic Sr-90: 313a(AUS) (http://www.nrc.gov/reading-rm/doc-collections/forms/nrc313a%28aus%29.pdf)

**Previously authorized on another license and requesting the same privileges**
[ ] Letter from department chair or physician in charge requesting privileges
[ ] Copy of the radioactive materials license on which the physician was specifically named as an authorized user or letter from Radiation Safety Officer named on license.

**Not Board Certified, all required training completed**
[ ] Letter from department chair or physician in charge requesting privileges
[ ] Current New York State Medical License
[ ] Curriculum vitae
[ ] NRC Form 313a
   [ ] Nuclear Medicine/Nuclear Cardiology: 313a(AUD) (http://www.nrc.gov/reading-rm/doc-collections/forms/nrc313a%28aud%29.pdf)
   [ ] Nuclear Medicine Therapy: 313a(AUT) (http://www.nrc.gov/reading-rm/doc-collections/forms/nrc313a%28aut%29.pdf)
   [ ] Radiation Oncology: HDR, Gamma Knife, Brachytherapy, Ophthalmic Sr-90: 313a(AUS) (http://www.nrc.gov/reading-rm/doc-collections/forms/nrc313a%28aus%29.pdf)

Submit documents to

Radiation Safety Office, Clinical Programs
630 W. 168th St, MC70
New York, NY 10032
212-305-0303
rsocumc@columbia.edu
J. Forms

- Nuclear Medicine/Nuclear Cardiology: NRC Form 313a(AUD) ([http://www.nrc.gov/reading-rm/doc-collections/forms/nrc313a%28aud%29.pdf](http://www.nrc.gov/reading-rm/doc-collections/forms/nrc313a%28aud%29.pdf))

K. References

L. Acknowledgements