



Republic of the Philippines Department
of Science and Technology

PHILIPPINE NUCLEAR RESEARCH INSTITUTE



1 March 2021

RPSS Operational Guidelines for Customers

Advisory No. 4

Output Measurement of brachytherapy sources and Cross-Calibration of brachytherapy well-type ionization chambers

To our valued Customers, please find below guidelines regarding the Output Measurement and Calibration services for brachytherapy sources and well-type ionization chambers provided by the Radiation Protection Services Section (RPSS):

1. The reference brachytherapy well-type ionization chamber used by RPSS for routine brachytherapy services will be sent abroad for calibration by March 2021. The RPSS will resume acceptance of brachytherapy service applications upon return of the instrument, which is estimated to be in June 2021. The RPSS will issue another advisory upon the immediate resumption of the service.
2. New services for **Cobalt-60** brachytherapy sources will be available upon return of the reference chamber. Please contact us if you are interested to avail of the new services.
3. Due to logistical difficulties and additional health protocols in some LGUs, calibration outside of Luzon may be limited. Hence, please consider the following together with the listed guidelines in #4:

For Luzon areas

The customer shall provide private transport to and from the hospital facility and PNRI; and handle all logistical and health documentation requirements for travelling between LGUs.

For Visayas & Mindanao areas

- a) The customer may identify and collaborate with any radiotherapy hospital with a brachytherapy source in Metro Manila and send the chamber to that radiotherapy facility. This is where the brachytherapy service will be conducted.
 - b) The customer may also identify and collaborate with a nearby brachytherapy facility in the region who are also planning to avail of the brachytherapy service of PNRI. The service will then be conducted together with the chamber/source of the facility.
4. The following operational guidelines and additional safety measures shall be followed by the RPSS and its customers availing of the brachytherapy service:

- a) Customers apply to the service by submitting the requirements a) via email to rps@pnri.dost.gov.ph & mlgrande@pnri.dost.gov.ph or b) at the PNRI – iPOSSH office. Please note that all transactions at PNRI for RP services will be by appointment basis. Customers must first secure an appointment online via the PNRI Services PORTAL at least two days before the scheduled date. Proceed to this link for an appointment: <https://services.pnri.dost.gov.ph/portal/Appoint>
- b) RPSS staff and customer agrees on the date of service and arrangements for transportation, preferably on the day when there is little or no patient traffic
- c) Customer will provide the following PPE:
 - a. Face mask;
 - b. Gloves;
 - c. Coverall or gown PPE for high risk areas (procedure rooms, e.g. brachytherapy)
- d) The customer and RPSS staff shall ensure that safety protocols and measures are observed by signing the Fieldwork Health and Safety Agreement

We apologize for the inconvenience/s this may bring upon your company. For any concerns or queries, you may email us at rps@pnri.dost.gov.ph. You may also contact us at the following phone numbers: 09336079294; 09270660751 or at 89296011 to 19 local 246/262. Thank you for your understanding and cooperation.


KRISTINE MARIE D. ROMALLOSA
Head, Radiation Protection Services Section


PRECIOSA CORAZON B. PABROA, Ph.D.
Chief, Nuclear Services Division