On the Legal Consideration of the Medical User or Radioisotopes

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When radioisotopes are used for the purpose of medical diagnosis or treatment we have to take care to the legal consideration in Japan. The law which has deep relation to medical user of radioisotopes is "Protection of ionizing radiation used for medical examination and treatment" in "Law of medical services". These enforcement regulations were amended several times because they have made on the basis of recommendation of ICRP.

The principle of the law of radiation protection, in any events, is as follows; the user should be strived as possible as to protect for technicians or labors against exposure of ionizing radiation. Therefore, the chief of users should also settle the control area and the special institute for labors and publics. Furthermore, he must keep them radiation doses from irradiating materials under the maximum permissible doses. In the enforcement regulations of the law have been described in details the methods of protection of ionizing radiation which about the storage, decontamination, removal and carriage of radioisotopes, etc. The permitted user in the law, of course, must keep the methods of protection against the ionizing radiation but he has also another duties; that the measurement of the radiation doses in the control area, the institution, permissible doses of removable air, water and waste in the laboratories and so on. The physical examination of labors, technicians and researchers in every three months is also one duty. These results of measurement and examination are kept in five years.

When radioisotopes are applied for medical examination and treatment we have no limits in regard to the Law of medical services, but the use of radioisotopes has been managed in the controlling installation and since the patients treated with radioisotopes are the carrier of them the consideration of protection should be taken properly.

These enforcement regulations are not simple. When the rules are very complicated the user may unconsciously violate them. If he want to keep exactly the rules it is better that the management of radioisotopes which contains the duties of records of measurement with regard to radiation doses in control area, receipts and expenses, disposal of waste etc., is entrusted to the specialists. These specialists as health physicist may be authorized by the administrator, thus the user may also be able to close the attention for the works himself.