CONFERENCE OF RADIATION CONTROL PROGRAM DIRECTORS, INC.

RESOLUTION

Relating to: The Use of Potassium Iodide (KI) In the Event of a Large Release of Radioactive Iodine that May Require Protective Action.

WHEREAS: The CRCPD recognizes the complexities, including stockpiling, distribution timing, and distribution logistics surrounding the issue of state and/or local agencies providing KI to the general public, and

WHEREAS: The CRCPD has reviewed current federal guidance on the use of KI, and

WHEREAS: The CRCPD recognizes that the use of KI is not a substitute for evacuation, sheltering-in-place, food embargoes or other protective action that would substantially remove a population from the presence of radioactive materials, and

WHEREAS: Exposure to radioiodine could result in acute health effects and an increased risk of future health problems related to the thyroid, and

WHEREAS: The CRCPD recognizes that KI provides protection only against radioiodine and does not provide protection against any other radioactive material that may be present, and

WHEREAS: A very small segment of the general population may be allergic to iodine and at increased risk of sustaining adverse effects if KI is taken as a prophylactic, and

WHEREAS: Studies have shown that the expected benefit (dose savings) to iodine-allergic individuals outweighs the potential for adverse effects.

NOW BE IT RESOLVED:

That state and local jurisdictions CONSIDER the use of KI as a prophylactic for the general public in the event of a large release of radioactive iodine that may require protective action, and

That consideration of state and local jurisdictions be conveyed to the general public, and if the decision is made to distribute or stockpile KI, jurisdictions must develop and implement a public and medical KI educational program, and

That state and local jurisdictions must consider the criteria on which a recommendation for the public to consume KI will be made. Such criteria should take into account whether the drug has been pre-distributed or will be provided at the time of an event; whether the recommendation is based on a projected or actual release of radioiodine and at what exposure level, and the timeliness of any such recommendation. The public should be made aware of the process by which KI use will be recommended and cautioned against unnecessary or inappropriate use of the drug, and

That state and local jurisdictions consider the potential liabilities of distributing KI to the public and consideration should be given to legislation or other mechanisms that might afford a measure of immunity from lawsuits for those entities and individuals assigned the responsibility for distributing the drug, and

That the federal government provide funding to support state and local jurisdictions in developing and maintaining a continuing program to provide KI to the public should the need arise, and

That state and local jurisdictions may follow the U.S. Food and Drug Administration guidance titled ?Potassium Iodine as a Thyroid Blocking Agent in Radiation Emergencies? dated December 2001, and

That the FDA expedite the approval to manufacture KI in smaller dose amounts (65, 32, 16 mg tablets, and in liquid form) for use by children and neonates or withdraw that portion of the December 2001 guidance referencing the minimum effective doses for children.

Approved by the CRCPD Membership on May 6, 2002

Paul J. Merges, Ph.D.
CRCPD Chairperson