



Frequently Asked Questions-LEU

Q. Why is the industry moving toward non-HEU?

A. Most of the diagnostic doses used for medical imaging in the United States are made from High Enriched Uranium which is weapons grade. President Obama signed an Act that seeks to eliminate High Enriched Uranium materials by the year 2016.

Q. How are the LEU doses different from the HEU doses I use now?

A. There is no difference in procedures performed by the technologists. You will not need higher amounts of activity. The only difference is the raw material processed by the radiopharmacy.

Q. How do I get the additional \$10 for my LEU dose?

A. The additional payment applies to Medicare Hospital Outpatient doses only. You simply need to add the code.

Q. What is the new code?

A. HCPCS code Q9969 (Tc-99m from non-highly enriched uranium source, full cost recovery add-on, per study dose). HCPCS code Q9969 is assigned to APC 1442 (Non-HEU Tc-99m Add-On/Dose) with a status indicator of "K" and a CY 2014 payment rate of \$10.

Q. How do I prove the doses are LEU to the CMS?

A. HeartLight Pharmacy will provide documentation on your dose label, packing slip, and radiopharmaceutical invoice stating the doses were prepared with low enriched uranium generators.

Q. Is there a price difference on LEU doses?

A. Due to the limited availability of LEU generators and expenses associated with LEU doses there will be a slight price increase. The final cost depends on the quantity of doses ordered. Switching to LEU now will help your department avoid a costly LEU price increase later.

Q. When can I start?

A. Now! HeartLight Pharmacy Services is already supplying LEU doses to some of our customers!