Committee on Guidelines
SNM Annual Meeting, Miami, FL
June 8, 2012

Participants: Kevin Donohoe (Chair), Sue Abreu, Helena Balon, KG Bennet, David Brandon, Dominique Delbeke, Edward Eikman, Mary Beth Farrell, James Galt, Ben Greenspan, Robert Henkin, Denise Merlino, J. Anthony Parker, Jack Slosky

SNM Staff: Sue Bunning, Lisa Lefebvre, Janette Merrill

Discussion

1. Welcome and Introductions

Kevin Donohoe, Committee Chair, welcomed everyone to the meeting. Quorum was established with the arrival of additional committee members.

2. Approval of Meeting Minutes

The minutes from the teleconference held on March 16th were approved.

3. SNM Guidelines Update

Janette Merrill provided an update on guidelines currently under development or revision.

• Three guidelines will be considered for SNM Board approval at their meeting on June 8th: Guideline for Therapy of Thyroid Diseases with I-131; Guideline for Brain Death Scintigraphy; and the SNM-EANM Guideline for Guideline Development.

• There are several guidelines that have been identified for revision and are in the early stages of that process including: Guideline for GI Bleed Scintigraphy, Guideline for Telenuclear Medicine, Guideline for Gated Equilibrium Radionuclide Ventriculography, Guideline for Meckel’s Diverticulum Scintigraphy, and the Guideline for Sentinel Node Scintigraphy.

• The SNM-ASNC-SCCT Guideline for Cardiac PET/CT and SPECT/CT has been approved by SCCT; we are awaiting notice from ASNC regarding their approval of the final draft. Once ASNC approves, the guideline will be sent through the SNM approval process.

4. EANM Collaborations

Dominique Delbeke provided an update on the efforts to collaborate on guidelines with EANM. EANM has endorsed two SNM guidelines; SNM has endorsed two EANM guidelines. A third EANM guideline – for MIBG therapy – will be considered for endorsement by the SNM Board at their meeting on Friday, June 8th.

EANM was in the process of revising their guideline for FDG in inflammation and infection and has invited us to collaborate on this guideline. Initial review and comments were provided by the SNM
members of the EANM-SNM Guidelines Steering Committee, but it will come to this committee for review and comment.

We are also working together on a new guideline for Beta Amyloid imaging. Shatoshi Minoshima has been selected to chair this guideline and has successfully recruited a writing group. Shatoshi will begin writing the first draft immediately. SNM will provide the staff support for this guideline.

EANM and SNM both had guidelines on palliation of bone pain that were coming up for revision. We agreed to collaborate on this as well; Ted Silberstein has been identified as a co-chair. EANM will name the chair and provide the staff support.

The committee discussed whether to try to make all future guidelines – regardless of whether they are new or undergoing revision only – collaborative with EANM. This is seen as a way of adding strength to our guidelines and the process has seemed to run smoothly so far. There will be some issues with differences in approved radiopharmaceuticals, but this can be explained in each guideline as the issues arise. The motion was made and passed to collaborate as appropriate on all guidelines from now on.

5. IOM Recommendations for Clinical Practice Guidelines

The IOM issued a report in March 2011 with specific recommendations and requirements that specialty societies should be meeting when developing clinical practice guidelines. SNM guidelines do not currently meet the IOM definition due to a lack of the grading of evidence.

The process needs to be implemented to meet the recommendations when we develop therapy guidelines. The diagnostic guidelines may not need to meet the more rigorous criteria. ASNC calls there guidelines ‘imaging guidelines’ and do not classify them as clinical practice guidelines.

CMSS is finalizing a document to help specialty societies understand the IOM recommendations better and to help implement these requirements. This document will be considered for approval at the CMSS fall Board meeting; if approved, specialty societies will be asked to endorse and implement the recommendations.

We will continue this discussion as we look further in to what we need to do with our development/revision process to meet the IOM requirements.

6. Webinars and CE for JNM Publications

We are going to begin offering webinars to coincide with the publication of new or revised guidelines. These will be offered for free, recorded and posted on the SNM website.

Kevin Donohoe attended the CE Committee meeting to propose CE Credit for guidelines published in the JNM. This is already done for guidelines published in the JNMT. The CE Committee approved the request; the Committee on Guidelines will be responsible for developing the questions needed.

7. MOC, Part 4 Practice Performance Assessment (PPA) Projects
In order to meet MOC Part 4 requirements, physicians must perform an activity this year. There are three parts to the PPA - the first being to select a performance assessment project, second to assess the measurements identified and develop an improvement plan, and three to remeasure and see if there was improvement. Last year physicians just had to learn what the PPA was but now have to implement.

It was suggested that the guidelines could produce excellent canned projects for this purpose. For example, some of the procedural recommendations could be identified and measured to see how well the recommendations are followed. A physician could then consider possible improvement activities, implement and then remeasure to see if there was success.

The Education Committee has a template and instructions for developing these projects. ICANL also has a bank of all sorts of assessment tools. It was agreed that before we move forward with developing new projects, a thorough review of the existing projects should be undertaken.

Committee members interested in working on this should contact Dr. Parker.

8. Conflict of Interest Policy

A draft document of the guidelines COI policy was distributed. Continued discussions are needed with regard to implementing the COI policy and this document needs to be finalized. Due to time constraints, this discussion was limited.

9. Other Business

Gary Dillehay noted that he is in charge of the Choosing Wisely project for SNM. This is a consortium of 9 organizations looking at studies where the indications may be questionable. SNM is in the second tier group of the organizations asked to present five procedures in nuclear medicine that may not be indicated appropriately. This is due by December 4th.

This committee is asked to help in the identification of these procedures and to gather the supporting literature suggesting they are being wrongfully used or overused. Consumer Reports is a co-sponsor of this project so the information will likely be published by Consumer Reports.