

# Population Monitoring And Radionuclide Decorporation Following A Radiological Or Nuclear Incident



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## GHSI Emergency Radionuclide Bioassay Laboratory Network - Summary of a Recent Exercise

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### Abstract

The Global Health Security Initiative (GHSI) established a laboratory network within the GHSI community to develop collective surge capacity for radionuclide bioassay in response to a radiological or nuclear emergency. A recent exercise was conducted to test the participating laboratories for their capabilities in screening and *in vitro* assay of biological samples, performing internal dose assessment, and providing advice on medical intervention, if necessary, using a urine sample spiked with a single radionuclide, <sup>241</sup>Am. Laboratories were required to submit their reports according to the exercise schedule and using pre-formatted templates. Generally, the participating laboratories were found to be capable with respect to rapidly screening samples for radionuclide contamination, measuring the radionuclide in the samples, assessing the intake and radiation dose, and providing advice on medical intervention. However, gaps in bioassay measurement and dose assessment have been identified. The network may take steps to ensure that procedures and practices within this network be harmonized and a follow-up exercise be organized on a larger scale, with potential participation of laboratories from the networks coordinated by the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) and the World Health Organization (WHO).

### Keywords

nuclear emergency; radiological emergency; radioactive contamination; radionuclide bioassay; internal dosimetry; medical countermeasures

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