

Delivering Equitable Access to Nuclear Medicine in Europe

A Joint Call to Action from the European Nuclear Medicine Community

Nuclear medicine is changing how diseases are diagnosed and treated. By combining precision diagnostics with targeted therapies, it enables more personalised care, improves clinical decision-making and increasingly offers treatment options where few previously existed.

More than **10 million nuclear medicine procedures** are performed across Europe every year. Yet access remains uneven and too often depends on where a patient lives rather than on clinical need. Europe has the scientific excellence, clinical expertise and industrial capacity to lead in nuclear medicine. But innovation only matters when it benefits patients. The challenge is not simply to develop new technologies, but to ensure that every eligible patient can access them in a timely and equitable manner. Realising this ambition requires coordinated action on the conditions that enable innovation to move from research into patient care.

From Innovation to Access

Three Conditions Determine Patient Access to Nuclear Medicine

Patient access depends on three connected conditions: a fit-for-purpose regulatory framework, sufficient capacity and resilient supply, and a skilled, sustainable workforce. When any one is missing, patients face delays, inequalities and missed opportunities for diagnosis and treatment.

A Fit-for-Purpose Regulatory Framework

Radiopharmaceuticals differ fundamentally from conventional medicinal products. Their short half-lives, decentralised production models and interaction with radiation protection frameworks require regulatory and assessment pathways that are proportionate, predictable and adapted to their specific characteristics.

A coherent pathway across clinical development, regulatory approval and health technology assessment is essential to support innovation and avoid unnecessary delays in patient access. Earlier and stronger coordination between regulators, HTA bodies and other decision-makers can reduce fragmentation, align evidence requirements and accelerate access to advanced diagnostics and therapies.



Europe should develop a more integrated and predictable pathway for radiopharmaceuticals, from clinical research through assessment to patient access.

Capacity and Supply Resilience

Nuclear medicine relies on specialised, time-sensitive production and supply chains. Radiopharmaceuticals cannot be stockpiled or imported at short notice: their delivery depends on **coordinated European infrastructure operating every day**, including reactors, accelerators, radiopharmacies, treatment facilities and reliable transport networks. Gaps in production, infrastructure or supply are therefore not merely technical challenges. They directly determine whether patients can receive timely diagnosis and treatment.

The Critical Medicines Act, the European Radioisotopes Valley Initiative and the EU Biotech Act offer opportunities to build European capacity, strengthen supply security and support strategic autonomy. Their implementation should reflect the specific characteristics and needs of nuclear medicine.



Patient access requires sustained investment in dedicated infrastructure, radiopharmaceutical production capacity and resilient European supply chains.

A Skilled and Sustainable Workforce

Even the most advanced technologies cannot benefit patients without the specialised professionals required to deliver them safely and effectively. **Nuclear medicine depends on multidisciplinary expertise** across the patient pathway, bringing together physicians, technologists, medical physicists, radiopharmacists, radiochemists, nurses and engineers.

Growing demand for theranostics, radioligand therapies and advanced imaging requires coordinated action on education, training, workforce planning, professional mobility and recognition of qualifications. **Europe must prepare all professional groups for current and future patient needs.**



Patient access requires a European workforce strategy that anticipates growing demand and supports every profession involved in nuclear medicine.

A Strategic Opportunity for Europe

Nuclear medicine sits at the intersection of health, research and industrial excellence. Europe is already a global leader in this field. Protecting and extending that position requires policies that translate scientific progress into patient benefit.

Nuclear medicine should be recognised as a strategic European health priority. Long-term political commitment at the European and national levels is needed to create a stable environment for research, investment and delivery, and to turn European excellence into equitable access.

EANM and Nuclear Medicine Europe call on policymakers, regulators, healthcare systems, industry, patient organisations and the scientific community to build a European Access Roadmap for Nuclear Medicine around three strategic actions:

- 1 Create an integrated European pathway** for radiopharmaceutical clinical development, regulation and health technology assessment.
- 2 Strengthen European production capacity,** infrastructure and supply resilience for radioisotopes and radiopharmaceuticals.
- 3 Develop a European workforce strategy** covering education, skills, mobility and long-term workforce planning.

Europe's leadership in nuclear medicine will ultimately be measured not by the innovations it develops, but by the difference those innovations make in patients' lives.