

Nuclear Physician Job Interview Questions And Answers



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Nuclear Physician Interview Questions And Answers Guide.

Question - 1:

What is contamination?

Ans:

physical contact leaving a deposit of radioactive material on a surface, matter, or person. The contaminated person is irradiated as long as the active matter has not been eliminated or the radioactivity has not fully decayed naturally.

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Question - 2:

Explain me are you satisfied with your income?

Ans:

In short, yes. While some other specialties make more and others make less, I am able to pay my bills and start to pay off my medical student loans and home mortgage.

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Question - 3:

What is cold kit?

Ans:

non-radioactive precursor of a radiopharmaceutical containing all the elements that enable this medication to be reconstituted almost instantaneously, simply by adding a radionuclide solution.

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Question - 4:

Explain me has being a specialist in nuclear medicine met your expectations? Why?

Ans:

Yes, absolutely. Not only do I get to think about physiology, physics, math and chemistry daily, but I also get to spend time with patients.

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Question - 5:

What is becquerel(Bq)?

Ans:

unit of radioactivity equal to one (1) disintegration per second. The Becquerel replaces the former curie unit, one curie being the equivalent of 37 billion Becquerel.

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Question - 6:

Explain me are you willing to relocate?

Ans:

It's common for Medical Professionals to travel and cover between medical centers. Be clear during your interview if you are able to relocate or travel within a 30-mile radius. Answering this question stating you are not willing to relocate isn't necessarily a deal breaker. Be honest and see if you can negotiate with the interviewer.

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Question - 7:

What is decay?

Ans:

reduction in the degree of radioactivity over the course of time.



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Question - 8:

What is beta-plus?

Ans:

(β^+) (beta-plus radiation): a particle emitted by a radioisotope and formed from a positively charged electron (positron), an unstable anti-electron, which when it meets a negatively charged electron is annihilated to emit two gamma photons that move in exactly opposite directions and are therefore usable in imaging.

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Question - 9:

Who is radiologist?

Ans:

physician who specializes in the practice of diagnostic radiology

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Question - 10:

Tell me how you employ the technique of X-ray in your radiology duties?

Ans:

Demonstrates the ability to apply general radiology techniques.

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Question - 11:

What is dosimetry?

Ans:

the study and measurement of absorbed radiation.

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Question - 12:

Explain me what surprised you the most about your medical school studies?

Ans:

This is a difficult question. If I were going to have to pick a surprise, it would be how much I enjoyed my first two years that were mainly physiology. While the last two years were great too, it was hard to find one specialty I liked more than the other, until I came upon nuclear medicine.

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Question - 13:

Tell us what types of medical imaging equipment have you worked with in the past?

Ans:

Shows experience using medical imaging equipment.

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Question - 14:

Tell me how did you choose the medical school you attended?

Ans:

Choosing the medical school I attended was easy. The University of Washington School of Medicine in one of the top medical schools in the country and has good access to both rural and urban medicine. Additionally, they have many professors who are world-renowned and who place an emphasis on sound teaching.

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Question - 15:

Tell us where do you see nuclear medicine in 5 to 10 years?

Ans:

Nuclear medicine is a field that holds a lot of promise for the future. I'm very excited about the possibility of precision (aka personalized) medicine. Knowing about physiology, biochemistry and physics, we can make a lot of strides toward minimally invasive therapies for a number of pathologic conditions, imaging them to see how the therapy is working and modifying therapy as needed. This may sound a bit like Star Trek, but things like this are happening now and are very exciting.

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Question - 16:

Who is radiologic technologist?

Ans:

allied health care professional who works with physicians in the fields of radiology and nuclear medicine

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Question - 17:

What is computerized tomography (CT)?

Ans:

cross-sectional imaging (usually with X-rays) allowing three-dimensional reconstruction.

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Question - 18:

Suppose a patient starts panicking while they are in the MRI machine. How do you calm them down and ensure that you are able to finish the procedure?

Ans:

Tests patient management skills.

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Question - 19:

Basic Nuclear Physician Job Interview Questions:

Ans:

- * Tell about yourself and why you think you're successful nuclear medicine physician?
- * Why do you like to work as nuclear medicine physician?
- * What could you don't like to work as nuclear medicine physician?
- * What are your future steps after experience you'll gain from your nuclear medicine physician job?
- * As nuclear medicine physician, what training courses or extra education that you think will improve your work performance?
- * What salary do you expect you'll get from being nuclear medicine physician employee?

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Question - 20:

Explain me what types of outreach/volunteer work do you do, if any?

Ans:

I am fortunate enough to be very involved with professional societies. I serve on the board of directors of the American College of Nuclear Medicine (ACNM) and am editor of the ACNM newsletter. As a resident I was president of the Nuclear Medicine Resident Organization (NMRO), which is under the auspices of the ACNM. This is a great organization and allows for mentoring, networking, educational opportunities and many other exciting things.

The Society of Nuclear Medicine and Molecular Imaging (SNMMI) is another big part of my life. I currently serve as the Academic Council intern and am developing educational materials for lung scintigraphy in the form of a basic module for V/Q scans and an LLSAP module (a kind of CME required after board certification). I also had the great honor of doing the first Robert E. Henkin government relations fellowship and am now a part of the government relations committee; I find this very rewarding and look forward to continued participation. The coding and reimbursement committee is something that I started serving on while a resident-I found this quite useful since as a medical student and resident we don't get much education on the business side of medicine and how payment actually works-it's fascinating and aggravating at the same time. It's most aggravating when someone needs something that has plenty of good data behind it and her or his insurance doesn't approve it. I also serve as an officer in the Young Professionals section of SNMMI. We hope to help advance the field and garner awareness of nuclear medicine.

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Question - 21:

Explain me have you any final piece of advice for students interested in pursuing nuclear medicine as a career?

Ans:

Nuclear medicine can be entered into in various ways. In my opinion the best way is the way that offers the highest amount of dedicated training in nuclear medicine: preliminary year (internal medicine, surgery or transitional year) followed by a three-year nuclear medicine residency. Other considerations include completing an internal medicine residency and then continuing on to a two-year NM residency. Or, finally, one can complete a radiology residency and go on to do a one-year NM fellowship. Since NM is a field that is always changing, more training is better. That being said, finding a job in purely NM is very challenging, requires a lot of networking as a resident and immense amounts of determination. Nonetheless, it's quite possibly one of the most rewarding specialties around.

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Question - 22:

Explain me a typical day at work?

Ans:

A typical day at work for me usually starts at 8 a.m., but some tumor conferences start at 7 or 7:30 a.m. At 8 a.m., along with my colleagues, I go over the "overnight cases" that were read by the residents and have an opportunity to discuss with them what questions they may have. From around 9 to 10 a.m., we wait for the radiopharmaceuticals to localize in our patients and for them to be imaged: we can only go as fast as our patients' physiology. While we wait, we teach technologist students, work on research or work on administrative things.

After 10 to 10:30 a.m. or so, images start rolling in and need to be read. During this time I will review the findings with the residents or fellows. In the event that we have radionuclide therapy patients, I will review radiation safety precautions with them and anyone else in their household. I enjoy putting to rest bad information from the Internet and putting the patients at ease. Work continues until somewhere between 5:30 to 7 p.m. Monday through Friday. We are also open for business (mostly inpatients) on Saturday and Sunday; those days are usually quite a bit shorter.

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Question - 23:

Tell me how do you stay up to date with new treatments and advancements in radiology?

Ans:

Shows continuous training and professional development.

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**Question - 24:**

Please explain the abilities you have in order to work with us as nuclear medicine physician?

Ans:

I have the ability to communicate information and ideas in speaking so others will understand, tell when something is wrong or is likely to go wrong. It does not involve solving the problem, only recognizing there is a problem, read and understand information and ideas presented in writing, combine pieces of information to form general rules or conclusions (includes finding a relationship among seemingly unrelated events), listen to and understand information and ideas presented through spoken words and sentences.

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Question - 25:

Explain what protective gear do you and the patient wear when you are performing an X-ray?

Ans:

Tests knowledge of safety protocols.

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Question - 26:

Who is radiographer?

Ans:

health care professional who aids physicians in administering diagnostic x-ray procedures

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Question - 27:

What is biological half-life?

Ans:

time period at the end of which a cell or tissue has eliminated half the quantity of a molecule present by a biological metabolic mechanism followed by excretion.

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Question - 28:

Suppose if you took out educational loans, is paying them back a financial strain?

Ans:

I am currently in the process of repaying my student loans. I'm able to maintain my payments and sometimes pay more than is required.

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Question - 29:

Tell me what was it like finding a job in your chosen career field? What were your options and why did you decide what you did?

Ans:

It was difficult. This is not a field for the faint of heart. One must keep all the options open and be willing to be anywhere in the U.S. or even the world. I was fortunate enough to choose between three jobs. I decided on my current job because it provided the opportunity to teach residents and fellows, engage in research and also be involved with my specialty on a national/international level. All of these things are very important to me.

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Question - 30:

Tell us what is the most effective way to administer radiopharmaceuticals and why?

Ans:

Demonstrates candidates' knowledge and experience.

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Question - 31:

Explain me what is your greatest weakness? What are you doing to improve it as Nuclear Physician?

Ans:

Try to relate this to your day-to-day tasks while also providing a specific strategy for self-improvement. By clearly knowing your strengths and weaknesses, you can highlight your self-awareness and your commitment to improvement.

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Question - 32:

Tell us how would you describe (nuclear medicine physician or your) needed work style?

Ans:

My work style matching exactly what cashier job requires by: being careful about detail and thorough in completing work tasks, being honest and ethical, being reliable, responsible, and dependable, and fulfilling obligations, analyzing information and using logic to address work-related issues and problems, establishing and maintaining personally challenging achievement goals and exerting effort toward mastering tasks.

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**Question - 33:**

Tell us what do you like most about being a specialist in nuclear medicine?

Ans:

The thing I like most about being a nuclear medicine physician is being able to make a difference in a patient's care. This is most often in the form of giving feedback in the form of F-18 FDG PET/CT to let the patient's oncologists or radiation oncologists know how the treatment is working. But, this is a tie with being able to give radionuclide therapies either to prolong survival with patients who have differentiated thyroid cancer or give palliative therapy for pain in patients with widespread osseous metastatic disease. Being able to make a difference for patients is very rewarding.

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Question - 34:

Explain me what information/advice do you wish you had known when you were beginning your medical studies?

Ans:

Don't lose heart, things will work out in the end. Keep your focus on doing what you like to do as well as helping patients and you'll be fine. Don't forget to always do the right thing for your patients.

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Question - 35:

Suppose if you had it to do all over again, would you still specialize in nuclear medicine? Why or why not? What would you have done instead?

Ans:

Yes. Even though finding a job in the specialty of nuclear medicine is difficult, I wouldn't change a thing. This is a field that is very technology driven and promises to be a powerhouse for the future of precision medicine. The ability to label antibodies to treat and image different pathologies based on physiology is amazing. In the future, other more molecular based forms of nuclear medicine imaging and treatment will give us additional precision and personalization in the treatment of our patients. This greatly excites me. If NM hadn't been invented, I would have pursued forensic pathology.

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Question - 36:

Can you explain me what are the knowledge elements you obtained from your education, training and work experience would support your nuclear medicine physician career?

Ans:

The knowledge of the information and techniques needed to diagnose and treat human injuries, diseases, and deformities. This includes symptoms, treatment alternatives, drug properties and interactions, and preventive health-care measures, the structure and content of the English language including the meaning and spelling of words, rules of composition, and grammar, plant and animal organisms, their tissues, cells, functions, interdependencies, and interactions with each other and the environment, Knowledge and prediction of physical principles, laws, their interrelationships, and applications to understanding fluid, material, and atmospheric dynamics, and mechanical, electrical, atomic and sub-atomic structures and processes, circuit boards, processors, chips, electronic equipment, and computer hardware and software, including applications and programming.

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Question - 37:

Tell us how do you perform a Radioactive iodine uptake test?

Ans:

As a Nuclear Medicine Technologist, you know that a Radioactive Iodine Uptake Test measures thyroid function and how much radioactive iodine is taken up by your thyroid gland in a certain time period. Explain to the interviewer how this test is performed.

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Question - 38:

Tell me what steps would you take to ensure an imaging machine is working correctly?

Ans:

Demonstrates candidates' technical and mechanical skills, as well as attention to detail.

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Question - 39:

What is contrast studies?

Ans:

radiopaque materials are injected to help visualize a specific part, organ, tube, or liquid when shown on x-ray film

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Question - 40:

What is curie (Ci)?

Ans:

unit of radioactivity; one curie equates to the radioactivity emitted by one gram of pure radium-226, one of the first natural radioactive materials available and isolated at the beginning of the last century. In principle, this unit should no longer be used because it was replaced by the becquerel in the 1980s.

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Question - 41:



What is alpha (a) (alpha radiation)?

Ans:

a particle emitted by a radioisotope and formed from a nucleus of helium containing two protons and two neutrons with potential therapeutic uses owing to strong ionizing power.

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Question - 42:

Tell me in your position now, knowing what you do - what would you say to yourself when you started your medical career?

Ans:

I would say, "Go for it! You'll love nuclear medicine!"

[View All Answers](#)

Question - 43:

Tell me what do you like least about being a specialist in nuclear medicine?

Ans:

This is a tough question, but I think the best answer I can give is that not many people know what nuclear medicine is. This is a small specialty with a different knowledge set. We have a lot of work ahead of us educating our colleagues in other specialties as well as the public.

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Question - 44:

Tell us when did you first decide to become a doctor? Why?

Ans:

I first decided to become a doctor in the second grade after reading the biography of the first woman doctor, Elizabeth Blackwell. Along the way I had several other experiences that solidified that early notion. In particular, my undergraduate work in zoology, physiology and microbiology with a minor in chemistry further cemented my aim of practicing medicine one day.

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Question - 45:

Explain me what are the skills required from nuclear medicine physician employee in order to success in his work?

Ans:

Using logic and reasoning to identify the strengths and weaknesses of alternative solutions, conclusions or approaches to problems, Understanding the implications of new information for both current and future problem-solving and decision-making, Understanding written sentences and paragraphs in work related documents, Communicating effectively in writing as appropriate for the needs of the audience, Giving full attention to what other people are saying, taking time to understand the points being made, asking questions as appropriate, and not interrupting at inappropriate times.

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Question - 46:

Explain me what is your experience preparing radiopharmaceuticals?

Ans:

As a Nuclear Medicine Technologist, you know that radiopharmaceuticals are drugs that contain radionuclides that emit radiation. The distribution of the radiopharmaceutical within the body is determined by the physiochemical properties of the drug, the stability of the radiolabel, the purity of the radiopharmaceutical preparation, the pathophysiologic state of the patient, and the presence or absence of interfering drugs. If you are new to the field explain that you are looking forward from learning from your Sr. Technologists. If preparing radiopharmaceuticals has become second nature, tell the interviewer about your experience preparing and administering them to your patients.

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Question - 47:

Tell me what recent innovation in the field are you most excited about?

Ans:

Demonstrates candidates' willingness to stay up-to-date in the field.

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Question - 48:

What is small bowel follow through?

Ans:

study that traces the passage of barium in a sequential manner as it passes through the small intestine

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Question - 49:

What is nuclear medicine?

Ans:

medical specialty that uses radioactive substances in the diagnosis and treatment of disease



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Question - 50:

Tell us do you have family? If so, do you have enough time to spend with them? How do you balance work and life outside of work?

Ans:

I have a wonderful husband and two beautiful dogs (a sweet three-year-old Goldendoodle and a crazy seven-month-old Sheepadoodle puppy). We all enjoy dog parks and long walks. My husband and I will be celebrating our five-year anniversary this year and are considering expanding the family with some human children within the next few years.

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Question - 51:

Tell us from your perspective, what is the biggest problem in health care today?

Ans:

This is a very difficult question, since in truth there's quite a lot that can be improved. From the perspective of education, I think it would be great for medical students to have a better understanding of costs of care and the business side of medicine.

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Question - 52:

Tell me how many hours a week do you work?

Ans:

This is a tough question to answer. I work until all the patient work is done. We occasionally have work-related meetings after work and I take call for a week at a time roughly every third week. I also will review some things after hours on my own at home for certain situations or patients. If I were to estimate the number of hours I work doing nuclear medicine-related things, it would be around 60 to 80 hours per week.

[View All Answers](#)

Question - 53:

Tell me why did you decide to specialize in nuclear medicine?

Ans:

Because of my interest in physiology, I discovered that I truly love nuclear medicine. My first real exposure to it was when I followed one of my otolaryngology patients who had a melanoma of the helix of the ear to the NM department for a lymphoscintigraphy. When I found out that the specialty of NM uses the tracer principle to visualize physiologic processes in addition to chemistry, physics and plenty of math (that day I even used the Pythagorean Theorem), I fell in love. Yes, I'm a proud geek and was so happy to find a specialty that married many of my interests.

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Question - 54:

Tell us what are the main job duties and responsibilities of "nuclear medicine physician" employee?

Ans:

Nuclear medicine physician responsibilities are to advise other physicians of the clinical indications, limitations, assessments, or risks of diagnostic and therapeutic applications of radioactive materials;

Check and approve the quality of diagnostic images before patients are discharged; compare nuclear medicine procedures with other types of procedures such as computed tomography, ultrasonography, nuclear magnetic resonance imaging, and angiography; consult with patients following radiation treatments to provide information and assess outcomes or to recommend further consultation or treatments as appropriate;

Determine appropriate tests or protocols based on patients' needs or conditions; direct nuclear medicine technologists or technicians regarding desired dosages, techniques, positions, and projections; establish and enforce radiation protection standards for patients and staff; formulate plans and procedures for nuclear medicine departments; interpret imaging data and confer with other medical specialists to formulate diagnoses; interview and physically examine patients prior to testing;

Monitor cleanup of radioactive spills to ensure that proper procedures are followed and that decontamination activities are conducted; prepare comprehensive interpretive reports of findings; prescribe radionuclides and dosages to be administered to individual patients; review procedure requests and patients' medical histories to determine applicability of procedures and radioisotopes to be used; monitor handling of radioactive materials to ensure that established procedures are followed; provide advice on the selection of nuclear medicine supplies or equipment; direct the safe management and disposal of radioactive substances; monitor quality control of radionuclide preparation, administration, or disposition ensuring that activities comply with applicable regulations and standards; teach nuclear medicine, diagnostic radiology, or other specialties at graduate educational level; administer radioisotopes to clinical patients or research subjects; perform cardiovascular nuclear medicine procedures such as exercise testing and pharmacologic stress testing; schedule examinations and staff activities; calculate, measure, or prepare radioisotope dosages;

Test dosage evaluation instruments and survey meters to ensure they are operating properly; conduct laboratory procedures, such as radioimmunoassay studies of blood or urine, using radionuclides; consult with anesthesiologists regarding recommended dosages or combinations of sedative drugs.

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Question - 55:

Explain me what type of clinical settings have you worked in?

Ans:

Clinical settings you may have experience with are in-patient, out-patient, ICU, ER, family practice, community clinics, other settings within hospitals. Tell the interviewer which setting you've worked in and how you've been successful in them. If this will be your first job out of school, tell the interviewer where you did your clinicals or what type of setting you've volunteered in.

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Question - 56:

Tell me what side effects or reactions should you look for when monitoring a patient during scanning?



Ans:

Demonstrates candidates' knowledge of radiopharmaceuticals and their side effects.

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Question - 57:

Tell me what method would you use to calm a stressed patient?

Ans:

Demonstrates candidates' interpersonal and communication skills.

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