A. Purpose

Labs which possess and/or use radioactive materials (RAM) are required, under Rules of the City of New York Article 175 Radiation Control and the Radiation Safety Manual, to post signs informing workers of their rights and responsibilities, and warning of the potential hazards of working with RAM.

B. Applicability/scope

This policy applies to all facilities where radioactive materials (RAM) are used or stored that are under the cognizance of Columbia University Radiation Safety Program. This includes, but is not limited to:

- Columbia University Medical Center
- NewYork Presbyterian Hospital
- Allen Hospital
- Morningside campus
- Manhattanville campus
- Lamont Doherty Earth Observatory
- Nevis Lab
- Barnard College
- New York State Psychiatric Institute.

C. Definitions

EH&S – Environmental Health and Safety

RAM – Radioactive materials.

D. Procedures

Environmental Health and Safety (EH&S) personnel will post the required signs upon completion of the lab’s entry survey and following any changes in rooms where RAM is used or stored. Additional signage and labeling requirements for equipment and work areas will be assessed during the entry survey and subsequent quarterly audits.

Required postings:

- Emergency response information, listing contact information for laboratory, Radiation Safety and the Department of Health in the event of a spill, contamination or other emergency.
- “Notice to Employees” sign, posted in the area(s) where RAM is used, outlining workers’ rights and responsibilities under Federal law.
- “No Food or Drink” sign, prohibiting consumption and storage of food or drink in any lab using or storing RAM.
- “Caution - Radioactive Material” sign, indicating the isotope(s) in use and the name of the Responsible Investigator.
- “Laboratory Regulations for the use of Radioactive Materials” sign which provides basic guidelines of safe practices to prevent contamination while working with RAM.

E. Medical Surveillance

N/A

F. Recordkeeping

N/A

G. Appendices

N/A

H. Forms

N/A

I. References

N/A

J. Acknowledgements (optional)

N/A