

DCS No.: 9999000040119

Date: January 27, 2004

PRELIMINARY NOTIFICATION OF EVENT OR UNUSUAL OCCURRENCE PNO-I-04-004

This preliminary notification constitutes EARLY notice of events of POSSIBLE safety or public interest significance. The information is as initially received without verification or evaluation, and is basically all that is known by the Region I staff on this date.

Facility

Bowling Green Medical Center
Bowling Green, Kentucky

Licensee Emergency Classification

Notification of Unusual Event

Alert

Site Area Emergency

General Emergency

Not Applicable

Agreement State License No.: 202-124-26

SUBJECT: POTENTIAL OCCUPATIONAL EXTREMITY OVEREXPOSURE DURING
INTRAVASCULAR BRACHYTHERAPY TREATMENT

On January 19, 2004, during an intravascular brachytherapy (IVB) treatment at the Bowling Green Medical Center, the external valve in the catheter was inadvertently left partially closed during the treatment. As a result, the approximately 43 millicurie Strontium 90 (Sr-90) source train did not reach the target area. The licensee estimated the dose to the patient's thigh area as approximately 74 rads (0.74 gray). The licensee also reported that the physician administering the treatment received an extremity dose of approximately 74 rads to his fingertips. At this time, it is not clear the reason for the high extremity dose to the physician's fingertips. The licensee reported no significant adverse health effects are expected from this medical event.

The licensee has initiated a review of the event to determine the root cause and to initiate corrective actions. The Commonwealth also expects the licensee to re-evaluate the reported doses to the physician and the patient. The licensee is required to submit a written report to the Commonwealth the first week of February.

The contents of this preliminary notification were reviewed with the Commonwealth of Kentucky. The Region I Office of Public Affairs is prepared to respond to media inquiries.

Contact: Duncan White
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