

PRELIMINARY NOTIFICATION OF EVENT OR UNUSUAL OCCURRENCE PNO-II-00-033

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 Region II staff (Atlanta, Georgia) on this date.

Facility

Cumberland Medical Center
(An Agreement State Licensee)
Crossville, TN
Dockets: License Number: R-18002

Licensee Emergency Classification

Notification of Unusual Event
Alert
Site Area Emergency
General Emergency
X Not Applicable

Subject: UPDATE ON MEDICAL THERAPY MISADMINISTRATIONS

The Tennessee Division of Radiological Health notified NRC on August 15, 2000 that the licensee reported a misadministration which occurred on August 14, 2000. Two patients were being treated for prostate cancer using iodine-125 seed implants on the same date. The incident, which was determined by the physicist to be a human error, occurred when the wrong seed activity was ordered from the source supplier resulting in the patients receiving more activity than what was prescribed.

Follow up information provided by the licensee indicates that only one patient received a misadministration dose (a dose in excess of 20%). The pre-treatment plan for the first patient called for a dose of 108 to 110 Gray to the patient's prostate. The dose given to the first patient was calculated to be in the range of 130 to 135 Gray which exceeded the prescribed dose by about 23%. The dosage to the second patient was calculated by the licensee to have exceeded the prescribed dose by about 17%, which is below the regulatory definition for misadministration.

Both patients were notified of the event, and are being monitored for adverse reactions. The licensee has reported corrective actions to include independent checks on the isotope type, activity and number of seeds prior to ordering and again before implanting patients .

This information is current as of 3:30 p.m., Thursday, August 31, 2000.

CONTACT: R. Woodruff
404-562-4704