

October 31, 2002

PRELIMINARY NOTIFICATION OF EVENT OR UNUSUAL OCCURRENCE PNO-II-02-037

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

Bayfront Medical Center
(An Agreement State Licensee)
St. Petersburg, FL
License: 0023-2

Licensee Emergency Classification

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

Subject: MEDICAL EVENT

The Florida Bureau of Radiation Control notified the NRC Operations Center that the licensee reported treating 10 patients who may have received 60% more radiation than the intended radiation dose. The patients were treated during the period of August 26, 2002 and October 30, 2002 with a Gamma Knife procedure. The prescribed dose ranged from 12 to 24 grays to the brain.

The licensee reported that the manufacturer's employee changed the Gamma Knife's printer on August 2, 2002, and during the process, the calibration parameters for the instrument were reset to a different date. The error was discovered during a recalibration of the instrument on October 30, 2002. The instrument has been removed from service, and the patients and physicians involved are being notified.

The Bureau has the event under investigation.

Region II received initial notification of this occurrence electronically from the Florida Bureau of Radiation Control at 4:40 p.m., Thursday, October 31, 2002. This information has been discussed with the State and is current as of 5:30 p.m., Thursday, October 31, 2002.

CONTACT: Richard L. Woodruff
404-562-4704

Jay L. Henson
404-562-4731