

April 27, 2004

ALL AGREEMENT STATES, MINNESOTA, PENNSYLVANIA

**OPPORTUNITY TO COMMENT ON THE RESTRUCTURING OF THE TELETHERAPY AND BRACHYTHERAPY COURSE (H-313) (STP-04-029)**

The United States Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) is considering revising the Teletherapy and Brachytherapy course to better reflect current training needs in nuclear therapy. NRC has reviewed the comments received from students who have attended the Teletherapy and Brachytherapy course in the past few years. State and NRC attendees have suggested the reduction/removal of the teletherapy portion of the course from the curriculum due to the small number of licensees. Many students have requested more information on emerging technologies, such as HDR, gamma knife and 35.1000 uses. To assist in this effort we are requesting your comments on the restructuring of the Teletherapy and Brachytherapy course.

We are requesting any comments on possible modifications, as well any new modalities you believe would improve the course. Enclosed for your information are the summary of comments made by students who have attended the course recently (Enclosure 1) and the agenda for the current course (Enclosure 2).

The comments provided will be considered by our training staff in their review of the current course materials. We need your comments\* by May 23, 2004 in order to make the changes in a timely matter.

Thank you for your attention to this matter. If you have any questions regarding this correspondence, please contact me at (301) 415-3340 or the individual named below.

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Paul H. Lohaus, Director  
Office of State and Tribal Programs

Enclosures:  
As stated

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\* This information request has been approved by OMB 3150-0029, expiration 06/30/04. The estimated burden per response to comply with this voluntary collection is approximately 6 hours. Forward any comments regarding the burden estimate to the Information and Records Branch (T-6F33), U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission, Washington, DC 20555-0001, and to the Paperwork Reduction Project (3150-0029), Office of Management and Budget, Washington, DC 20503. If a document does not display a currently valid OMB control number, the NRC may not conduct or sponsor, and a person is not required to respond to, a collection of information.

STP-04-029

April 27, 2004

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Below are some student comments as listed on their course evaluation forms. The notation after the comment indicates whether it was made by an NRC or Agreement State employee.

**“What did you like least about the course”**

- Co-60 (State)
- spent too much time with Co-60 teletherapy dose/machines - there are no longer any of these machines used in Colorado for human use (State)
- too much was covered on teletherapy and not enough on new brachytherapy modalities (NRC)
- too much emphasis on teletherapy - we need to learn about new technologies like IVB (NRC)
- amount of time spent on Co-60 teletherapy compared to its relatively low use in the field (many facilities have switched to HDR and LINACs) (State)

**“What might be deleted or discussed in less detail”**

- Co-60 teletherapy units (State)
- Co-60 (State)
- expand on brachytherapy since teletherapy is on the way out (State)
- the technical information for the Co-60 teletherapy units (NRC)
- Co-60 (State)
- teletherapy (NRC)
- delete teletherapy (NRC)
- less detail on teletherapy (NRC)
- less Co-60 teletherapy (State)
- less detail on teletherapy (State)
- teletherapy Co-60, less and less licensees have/use (NRC)

ENCLOSURE 1

Teletherapy/Brachytherapy

<b>Day</b>	<b>Time</b>	<b>Topic</b>	<b>Faculty</b>
<b>Monday</b>	8-9AM	Introduction & Public Health Aspects of	Kempa
	9-9:30AM	Principle of Radiobiology & Effects on Normal Tissue	Kempa
	9:30-11:00	Overview of Radiation Therapy Treatment Modalities and Fundamentals	Kempa
	11-11:45 PM	Clinical Management of the Patient	Kempa
	11:45-12:45 PM	Lunch	
	1-1:15	Principal of Clinical Dosimetry	Kempa
	1:45-2:45 PM	Clinical Site Visit Hermann Hospital	Zeck
	3:15-4:30 PM	Gamma Knife MD Anderson Clinical Management of the Patient	Washington
<b>Tuesday</b>	8:00-9:00 AM	Review/External Beam Therapy & Principles of Clinical Dosimetry	Kempa
	9-10:30 AM	Teletherapy Source and Room Design & Teletherapy Dosimetry & Calibration	Schele
	10:30-12:00	Radiation Safety	Martir
	12-1 PM	Lunch	
	1- 2:45 PM	Principles of External Beam Treatment Planning	Kempa
	3-4 PM	Overview of LDR	Martir Hamberger
<b>Wednesday</b>	4-5 PM	Clinical Site Visit Memorial Hermann Southwest LDR	Martir/ Hamberger
	8:00-11:00	Brachytherapy; History, Principles, Practical Applications & Rad. Safety	Washington
	11-12 PM	Radiation Safety Concerns in Brachy./QC Concepts in Brachytherapy	Kempa
	12-1 PM	Lunch	
	1-2:15 PM	QC Concepts in Brachytherapy	Kempa
	2-30-3:30 PM	Basic Dosimetry Calculations	Kempa
	3:30-5 PM	Workshop External Beam Calculations	Kempa
<b>Thursday</b>	8-11:45 AM	Overview of HDR Brachytherapy and HDR Quality Control Program	Lawyer
	11:45-12:45 PM	Lunch	
	1:15-2:15 PM	Clinical site Visit: Md Anderson Output Spot Checks: Cobalt 60	Wells
	2:30-4:30 PM	Clinical Management of the Patient HDR Site Visit	Lawyer
<b>Friday</b>	8 AM-9:00	Treatment Deviations	Kempa
	9:00-10:30 AM	New Technologies: IVB, GliaSite	Harris
	10:30-12:00	Select Case Presentations Workshop: Case Review & Applicable Regulations	Kempa
	12-1 PM	Lunch	
	1-2 PM	Course Review	Kempa
	2-3:30	Exit Examination	