

**Metropolitan Animal Emergency Group, P.A.,  
D.B.A. Animal Emergency Referral Centre  
647 Bloomfield Avenue.  
West Caldwell, NJ 07006**

August 1, 2005

James P. Dwyer  
Chief Commercial and R&D Branch  
Division of Nuclear Materials Safety  
United States Nuclear Regulatory Commission Region 1  
1475 Allendale Road  
King of Prussia, PA 19406-1415

*29-30378-01*

Subject: **Reply to a notice of violation.** Inspection 03034385/2005001  
Metropolitan Animal Emergency Group, P.A.,  
D.B.A. Animal Emergency Referral Centre  
647 Bloomfield Avenue.  
West Caldwell, NJ 07006

Dear Mr. Dwyer:

This letter is a reply to a notice of violation received regarding an inspection performed on May 10, 2005 by Steve Courtemanche.

1. The reason for the violation was lack of clear instructions in our policy and procedure manual regarding the opening of the side window of the GM survey meter during all survey activity.

High levels of radiation surface contamination on the lead apron used for shielding of a lead lined sharps container was due to contamination during transfer of needles into this sharps container used on prefilled iodine dose syringes. Contamination may also have resulted from aerosolization of iodine vapor from the sharps container on the adjacent apron hanging as the shielding device.

2. Corrective steps instituted to prevent future occurrences included the attached memo instructing staff to keep window open on the GM survey instrument at all times when surveys are performed and to direct the open window toward the source of potential activity.

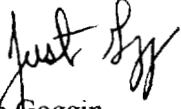
To reduce future contamination of the lead apron used for shielding the sharps container, we are now instructing our radiopharmaceutical dose distributor to provide us with syringes with 25 gauge needles already in place. Therefore, we no longer need to change needles in the facility prior to administering doses to our patients.

The new policy with regard to preplacement the of 25 gauge needles on our doses has already been instituted as of July 1, 2005. The staff has been verbally instructed to use the GM meter with the window open as of July 1, 2005 and a memo signed by all staff will be placed in the policy and procedure manual instructing the proper use of the GM survey meter with the window in the open position as of August 2, 2005.

**NMSS/RGNI MATERIALS-004**

If any additional information is required please contact us.

Sincerely,



Dr. Justin Goggin  
(973-980-1470)

Dr. Michael Palesscandolo  
(973-226-3282)



Enclosure: Memo regarding the GM survey meter use.

CC: John C. Ramsey, Radiation Safety Officer.

Metropolitan Animal Emergency Group, P.A.,  
D.B.A. Animal Emergency Referral Centre  
647 Bloomfield Avenue.  
West Caldwell, NJ 07006

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**MEMO**

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**TO: NUCLEAR MEDICINE STAFF**  
**FROM: JUSTIN GOGGIN**  
**DATE: 8/1/2005**

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All survey of patients, areas, potentially radioactive surfaces or materials, garbage, etc. where the GM survey meter is used per the existing policy and procedure manual, should be performed as follows. The GM survey meter should be used with the side window in open position and the side window portion of the probe should be oriented toward the source of potential radiation to be surveyed, to maximize the sensitivity of this survey instrument.

Please initial after reviewing this memo:

Leah Rose



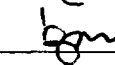
Carol Ann Kennedy



Justin Goggin



Michael Palescandolo



Betty T. Monahan



John Ramsey

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