

April 4, 2003

PRELIMINARY NOTIFICATION OF EVENT OR UNUSUAL OCCURRENCE -- PNO-III-03-017

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 III staff on this date.

Facility

Facility Name: Deaconess Hospital
Licensee: Deaconess Hospital
City, State: Evansville, IN
Docket: 03001580
License: 13-00142-02

Licensee Emergency Classification

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

SUBJECT: Medical Event Involving Iodine-131

DESCRIPTION:

On April 3, 2003, Deaconess Hospital reported to the NRC that a medical event occurred on March 28, 2003, when a patient received a dosage of iodine-131 that was greater than 20 percent than what was prescribed. Specifically, the licensee erroneously ordered and administered [REDACTED] of iodine-131 for the patient who was supposed to receive the prescribed [REDACTED] of iodine-131 for a thyroid uptake and scan. The licensee identified the medical event when it reviewed related paperwork on April 2, 2003. The licensee's review to determine medical event causes, corrective actions to prevent a similar medical event, and health effects (if any) to the patient as a result of the medical event, is ongoing.

The referring physician was informed of the medical event on April 3, 2003.

Neither the patient nor the patient's responsible relatives or guardians have been notified about the medical event.

The Indiana Department of Health was informed of the medical event.

NRC Region III will dispatch an inspector to review the event and the licensee's response next week.

The information contained in this Preliminary Notification was reviewed with licensee management.

The above information is current as of 11:00 a.m. (CST) on April 4, 2003.

CONTACTS: Robert Gattone
(630) 829-9823

Cassandra Frazier
(630) 829-9830