

CONVERSATION RECORD

TIME DATE
9:45 11/4/98

VISIT CONFERENCE TELEPHONE

 INCOMING
 OUTGOING

NAME OF PERSON(S) CONTACTED OR IN CONTACT ORGANIZATION (OFFICE, DEPT. ETC.) TELEPHONE NO.
Andrea Browne Community Hospital East 317-355-5865

SUBJECT
Report of loss of licensed material

SUMMARY

The licensee provided the following information about the loss of three I-125 seeds each containing 376 microcuries (i.e., 1128 microcuries total):

On 11/3/98, I-125 seeds were implanted into a patient. After the implant, licensee staff counted eight spare seeds that remained in a "sterilizer pig" that was used to sterilize the seeds before the procedure. Normal procedure required the dosimetrist to inventory the spare seeds, perform an ambient exposure rate survey of the area, and transfer spare seeds to the transport pig used to transport them back to the Radiation Oncology Dept. A dosimetrist forgot to transfer the eight spare seeds to the transfer pig before leaving the OR. Therefore, the spare seeds remained in the sterilizer pig. The radiation survey did not detect the spare seeds because they were shielded by the sterilizer pig. The survey of the autoclave was negative. A housekeeper, who was unauthorized to access the seeds, cleaned the sterilizer pig by rinsing the contents in a sink sometime between 5 p.m. on 11/3/98 and 8:00 a.m. on 11/4/98. The housekeeper was not trained to recognize the seeds.

The dosimetrist remembered he had forgot to transfer the spare seeds to the transport pig at about 8:00 a.m. on 11/4/98. The licensee found five of the eight spare seeds in the drain trap. The licensee performed surveys of the sink and removed accessible pipes, but could not find the missing three seeds.

The licensee self-identified that it lost control of licensed material. The licensee reported the event to the State.

The licensee does not believe the event would lead to a dose in excess of regulatory limits because the seeds were probably put down the drain.

The licensee planned to train OR staff on how to recognize the seeds and how to respond properly.

The inspector discussed the requirements of 10 CFR 20.2201 with the licensee.

ACTION REQUIRED

cc: John Madera

NAME OF PERSON DOCUMENTING CONVERSATION SIGNATURE DATE
Bob Gattone *Bob G. Gattone* 11/4/98

ACTION TAKEN

SIGNATURE TITLE DATE

B/3