

RI - DNMS Licensee Event Report Disposition

Licensee:	Norton Community Hospital				
Event Description:	Waste Sent to Landfill				
License No:	45-2305701	Docket No:	03030203	MLER-RI:	2007-023
Event Date:	09/18/07	Report Date:	09/18/07	HQ Ops Event #:	

1. REPORTING REQUIREMENT

<input type="checkbox"/> 10 CFR 20.1906 Package Contamination <input type="checkbox"/> 10 CFR 20.2201 Theft or Loss <input type="checkbox"/> 10 CFR 20.2203 30 Day Report <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Other <u>Waste alarm from hospital waste</u>	<input type="checkbox"/> 10 CFR 30.50 Report <input type="checkbox"/> 10 CFR 35.3045 Medical Event <input type="checkbox"/> License Condition
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2. REGION I RESPONSE

<input type="checkbox"/> Immediate Site Inspection <input type="checkbox"/> Special Inspection <input type="checkbox"/> Telephone Inquiry <input type="checkbox"/> Preliminary Notification/Report <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Information Entered in RI Log <input type="checkbox"/> Report Referred To: _____	<table style="width: 100%;"> <tr> <td style="width: 50%;">Inspector/Date</td> <td style="width: 50%;"></td> </tr> <tr> <td>Inspector/Date</td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td>Inspector/Date</td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td><input type="checkbox"/> Daily Report</td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Review at Next Inspection</td> <td></td> </tr> </table>	Inspector/Date		Inspector/Date		Inspector/Date		<input type="checkbox"/> Daily Report		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Review at Next Inspection	
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<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Review at Next Inspection											

3. REPORT EVALUATION

<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Description of Event <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Levels of RAM Involved <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Cause of Event	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Corrective Actions <input type="checkbox"/> Calculations Adequate <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Additional Information Requested from Licensee
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4. MANAGEMENT DIRECTIVE 8.3 EVALUATION

<input type="checkbox"/> Release w/Exposure > Limits <input type="checkbox"/> Repeated Inadequate Control <input type="checkbox"/> Exposure 5x Limits <input type="checkbox"/> Potential Fatality <input type="checkbox"/> If any of the above are involved: <input type="checkbox"/> Considered Need for IIT Decision/Made By/Date: _____	<input type="checkbox"/> Deliberate Misuse w/Exposure > Limits <input type="checkbox"/> Pkging Failure > 10 rads/hr or Contamination > 1000x Limits <input type="checkbox"/> Large# Indivs w/Exp > Limits or Medical Deterministic Effects <input type="checkbox"/> Unique Circumstances or Safeguards Concerns <input type="checkbox"/> Considered Need for AIT Decision/Made By/Date: <u>NA</u>
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5. MANAGEMENT DIRECTIVE 8.10 EVALUATION (additional evaluation for medical events only)

<input type="checkbox"/> Timeliness - Inspection Meets Requirements (5 days for overdose / 10 days for underdose) <input type="checkbox"/> Medical Consultant Used-Name of Consultant/Date of Report: <u>NA</u> <input type="checkbox"/> Medical Consultant Determined Event Directly Contributed to Fatality <input type="checkbox"/> Device Failure with Possible Adverse Generic Implications <input type="checkbox"/> HQ or Contractor Support Required to Evaluate Consequences
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6. SPECIAL INSTRUCTIONS OR COMMENTS

None

Non-Public

Inspector Signature: Richard W. McPhee

Date: 9/28/07

Public-SUNSI REVIEW COMPLETE

Branch Chief Initials: [Signature]

Date: 9/28/07

U.S. NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION

Date: 9/21/07

TELEPHONE CONVERSATION RECORD

Time: 1:25 p.m.

Mail Control
or Report No(s).

License No(s). 45-23057-01

Docket No(s). 03020223

Name of Licensee: Norton Community Hospital

Name of Participant(s): Roger Coleman-Chief tech
James Nunn-Physics Associates, consultantTelephone No. (276)679-9600
(540)563-0165 or (540)353-2597 (cell)Subject: Waste sent to landfill
(NOTE: This will be used as the
Documents Title in ADAMS)

Summary: On September 18, 2007, waste believed to be from the above licensee set off a monitor at the Wise County Transfer Station in Norton, VA. Both the licensee and their consultant, James Nunn, believe that the waste came from patient bandaging at Norton Community Hospital. Exposure readings at the Station from the waste declined from about 4 mR/hr to background over approximately 30 hours, making it likely that the waste was Tc-99m. When inspectors from the State of Virginia surveyed the waste at the hospital, they found small pieces of bandaging like band aids and gauze which were radioactive. Mr. Coleman believes that nuclear medicine patients at the hospital are removing bandaging from injection sites and disposing of them in hospital waste. He considers it likely that this has been going on for a while, but that the transfer station only recently installed a radiation monitor to detect contamination.

The licensee plans to institute patient instructions to return all bandages to nuclear medicine for disposal. They also plan internet inservices for nurses instructing them to collect patient items from the patient rooms that might be contaminated, and call nuclear medicine to pick them up. It is also planned that Mr. Nunn will in service personnel at the transfer station. Mr. Coleman will forward a report on these actions to NRC.

Action Required:

Document Availability: Publicly Available Non-Publicly Available

Non-Sensitive Non-Sensitive Copyright Sensitive Sensitive Copyright

Immediate Release Normal Release Delay Release Date

Prepared & SUNSI Review Completed By: RWM1

/ RA /

Date: 9/21/07

U.S. NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION		Date: 9/24/07
TELEPHONE CONVERSATION RECORD		Time: 8 am
Mail Control or Report No(s).	License No(s). 45-23001-01	Docket No(s). 03020156
Name of Licensee:	Mountain View Regional Medical Center	
Name of Participant(s):	Matthew Roberts-Chief tech Richard McKinley	
Telephone No.	(276)679-9100	
Subject: <small>(NOTE: This will be used as the Documents Title in ADAMS)</small>	Radioactive waste disposal	
Summary:	According to Mr. Roberts, nuclear medicine waste is stored for decay, and the last waste that was removed for disposal was removed on August 6, 2007. The last in house I-131 patient was Aust 16, 2007, and that waste is still in storage. Nurses on the floors have been in serviced on separating waste from radioactive patients and holding it for nuclear medicine. Mr. Roberts agreed to counsel patients about disposing of bandaging in the hospital.	
Action Required:		
Document Availability:	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Publicly Available	<input type="checkbox"/> Non-Publicly Available
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Non-Sensitive	<input type="checkbox"/> Non-Sensitive Copyright	<input type="checkbox"/> Sensitive <input type="checkbox"/> Sensitive Copyright
<input type="checkbox"/> Immediate Release	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Normal Release	<input type="checkbox"/> Delay Release Date
Prepared & SUNSI Review Completed By:	rwm1	/ RA / Date: 9/24/07

Nuclear Regulatory Commission
Attention: Richard McKinley
Fax: 1-610-337-5269

September 24, 2007

Investigation on Nuclear Medicine Incident

Norton Community Hospital was contacted by the Wise County Landfill personnel on September 20, 2007 in regards to a positive Geiger Reading from one of our trash dumpsters. A Geiger Counter was taken out to the dumpster and the trash was checked. One bag showed radioactivity in the 700 microRem/hour range. The article of trash that showed activity was a band-aid that had a spot of blood on it. This was determined to have been removed by a patient and thrown in the trash post nuclear medicine injection. This bandage was removed and placed in a secure area to decay to background activity.

ACTION PLAN:

1. Patients who undergo nuclear medicine procedures will be educated in regards to their injection site. The injection site will be bandaged with a 2x2 swab and covered by Coban wrap. The patient will be instructed to leave the wrap on the injection site until the time of the procedure at which point the NM technologist will remove the bandage. This bandage will be checked for activity and if radioactive will be placed in the radiation waste area for storage until decayed to background.
2. A new instructional sheet will be given to the patient which explains the steps that must be taken to ensure radiation safety concerning their specific examination.
3. A Netlearning educational program for staff that cares for Nuclear Medicine patients will be implemented on a mandatory basis.
4. Current Geiger counter monitoring will occur at the 0.1 mRem/hour setting in order to detect even minimal radioactivity of any contaminated patient material.
5. Self-monitoring of our trash dumpsters for the next two weeks to ensure that all trash is at or below background activity levels.

It is the goal of Norton Community Hospital to provide high quality nuclear medicine procedures that ensure the safety of our staff, patients and community. It is our hope that the above measures will minimize the possibility of such a reoccurrence.

If you have any further questions, please contact Bryan Mullins, Imaging Director at 276-679-9665 or G. Thomas Haines, MD, RSO at 276-679-9668. Thank you.


Bryan Mullins, Director Imaging Services


G. Thomas Haines, MD, RSO