



**DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS**  
**Veterans Health Administration**  
**National Health Physics Program**  
**2200 Fort Roots Drive**  
**North Little Rock, AR 72114**

**JUL 22 2008**

In Reply Refer To: 598/115HP/NLR

Cassandra F. Frazier  
Division of Nuclear Material Safety  
U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission, Region III  
2443 Warrenville Road, Suite 210  
Lisle, Illinois 60532-4352

Re: NRC License 03-23853-01VA

Dear Ms. Frazier,

I am forwarding the enclosed report regarding Event Number 44219. The report addresses two medical events that occurred at the VA Medical Center, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, and is submitted pursuant to 10 CFR 35.3045(d). The medical center holds VHA Permit Number 37-00062-07 under our master material license.

A medical event involving two patients was reported to the NRC Operations Center on July 10, 2008. The event involved permanent implant prostate seed brachytherapy.

My staff performed the initial on-site part of a reactive inspection on May 28-29, 2008, and returned on June 24-25, 2008, to evaluate the circumstances of the events, assess initial actions to prevent a recurrence, and assess regulatory compliance. This inspection remains open. At the exit meeting on May 29, 2008, the inspectors asked the medical center to review a sample of additional brachytherapy treatments. This review by the medical center has revealed additional patient procedures that might be medical events. The NRC Operations Center was notified of these additional possible medical events on June 6, 12, 21, 25, and July 2, 8, 10, 15, and 18, 2008, as amendments to Event Number 44219. This report addresses two of these additional possible medical events.

If you have any questions, please contact me at (501) 257-1571.

Sincerely,

E. Lynn McGuire  
Director, National Health Physics Program

Enclosure



Possible Medical Event                      NRC Event No. 44219

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**Why the Event Occurred:**

Root causes of event are still under investigation.

**Effect on Patient:**

Effect on patient is still under review.

**Corrective Actions:**

- Program is on-hold pending results of investigation
- QA program for Radiation Oncology is under review

**Patient notification:**

On July 9 and 10, 2008, the Chief of Radiation Oncology Service phoned the above 2 patients and their referring physicians/ primary care providers. Patients and referring physicians, and/or primary care providers, were informed the patients received a lower than planned prostate dose, the patients cases were being reviewed externally by an expert to obtain treatment option recommendations, and that the patients were entitled to receive a written report of the event.



**JAMES E. CARY  
CANCER CENTER**

P.O. Box 551  
5985 Hospital Drive  
Hannibal, MO 63401  
(573) 406-5800

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To: *USNRC, Region III*

Fax #: *630-515-1078*

From: *Dave DeProspero*

Subject: *Add "AMP"*

Date: *7-22-08*

Pages: *2* (including cover sheet)

Sender Telephone # *573-406-5801*

Sender Fax #

COMMENTS:

Date: 22 July 2008

To: United States Nuclear Regulatory Commission, Region III  
2443 Warrenville Road, Suite 210  
Lisle, Illinois 60532-4352

From: David DeProspero, MA  
James E. Cary Cancer Center  
P.O. Box 551  
Hannibal, MO. 63401

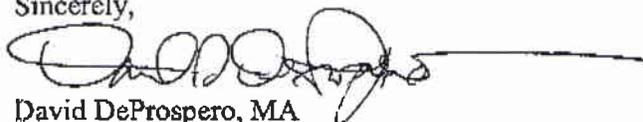
**Subject: Add Authorized Medical Physicist (AMP) to NRC License No. 24-32681-01,  
Docket No. 030-37750**

Please add Willis Brumley, M.S. to our license as an AMP for Iridium-192 in a High Dose Rate Remote Afterloading Brachytherapy device, and for calibrations, spot checks and training. Our license number is listed in the subject line above.

Mr. Brumley is currently listed as an AMP on USNRC License No. 24-32604-01, Docket No. 030-37082.

Thank you for your attention to this matter. If you have questions regarding this request I may be reached at the address listed above or by phone at 573-406-5801.

Sincerely,



David DeProspero, MA  
Director, James E. Cary Cancer Center