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(ASTRO)

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Current Definition

- It is deemed to be a medical event if “the total dose delivered differs from the prescribed dose by 20% or more.”
- This definition relies on estimates of absorbed dose which is hard to quantify.

Problems with Definition

- Permanent implant prostate brachytherapy is a dynamic procedure impacted by:
 - Changes in size and shape of prostate
 - Imaging modalities used

Defining Treatment Site

- Physician must be permitted to define treatment site.
- Treatment site should include an area outside of the prostate gland.

Written Directive

- Physician needs flexibility to update the written directive up until the time the patient leaves the care of the authorized user.
- Authorized user should affirm, in writing, that the distribution of the sources was as intended in the written directive and physics dosimetry plan.

Post-Implant Dosimetry

- Institutions should be allowed to practice according to specific needs and capabilities, particularly those of their patients.

Examination of “Near Misses”

- Responsibility of hospitals, clinics, professional societies and health care quality improvement experts.
- ASTRO is exploring working with a PSO to collect this type of information.

Conclusion

- Target-based definition would identify true errors and weed out medically acceptable implants.
- Flexibility for updating written directives and defining treatment site is necessary.
- Timing of post-implant dosimetry should be left to individual institutions.
- “Near Misses” should be collected by a PSO.