

RULES AND DIRECTIVES
BRANCH
USNRC

As of: 6/7/17 10:48 AM
Received: June 05, 2017
Status: Pending_Post
Tracking No. 1k1-8wsj-8kdg
Comments Due: June 12, 2017
Submission Type: Web

PUBLIC SUBMISSION

²⁰¹⁷~~2016~~ JUN -7 AM 11: 09

RECEIVED

Docket: NRC-2017-0094
Patient Release Program

Comment On: NRC-2017-0094-0001
Patient Release Program; Request for Comment

Document: NRC-2017-0094-DRAFT-0007
Comment on FR Doc # 2017-07276

Submitter Information

4/11/2017
82 FR 17465
8

Name: Heather McNew
Address:
1071 Union Ave
Brackenridge, PA, 15014
Email: hlmcnew@gmail.com

General Comment

In the summer of 2010, I was treated with Radioactive Iodine for papillary thyroid cancer. It was an incredible hardship on my family but not in the way you might think. I have two children who were 6 & 3 at the time. For two whole weeks, I could not be near them. I had no extended family nearby for support and the hospital refused to admit me. Some suggested that I stay at a hotel but my family was struggling financially.

Since there was no one to take care of my children I considered not having the radiation treatment. But, with a 4cm tumor, my doctor was adamant. So, for two weeks, my husband camped out in our small dining room with a 3yr old and 6yr old who didn't really understand why they couldn't go upstairs and see Mamma. The stress was unimaginable. Not only was my husband struggling to care for a spouse with cancer, he had to be on constant guard that our young daughter would be harmed by sneaking up to see me. As emotionally difficult as it was to not touch my little girl for 2 weeks, the thought of her experiencing the very cancer I was fighting was horrific. No parent should have to worry that their child will be harmed by the very treatment meant to save their own life.

As it turns out, it was a very good thing that I was not alone in some hotel. Several days after my dose I experienced a cardiac arrhythmia. Thankfully, my husband was able to rush me to the ER. I had developed a severe electrolyte imbalance from my radiation treatment and it could have killed me. To be clear, there was no need for this to happen. I was 34yrs old, laying in a hospital bed asking an ER doctor if I had just had a heart attack and it was totally preventable. Had I been admitted for my radiation treatment, this would have

SUNSI Review Complete
Template = ADM-013

E-RIDS = ADM-03
Call = DB: Howe (DBH) - C. RASAPAKSE (@JL2)

been detected much sooner, preventing any cardiac problems.

I would like to see hospitals admit thyroid cancer patients for radiation when young children can not be safeguarded from exposure to that radiation. Without such protection, we are creating a cycle of treatment, exposure and illness that directly violated the Hippocratic oath. Leaving parents in a home with young children risk significant harm to those children. Additionally, I would like to see all patients kept in the hospital for a couple days to evaluate their response to treatment. I firmly believe that assuring that patients are eating and drinking normally, is a minimum level of care.