

WASHINGTON  
HOSPITAL  
CENTER

030-01325  
08-03604-03

February 8, 1994

Jenny M. Johansen, Chief  
Medical Inspection Section  
Division of Radiation Safety and  
Safeguards  
U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission  
Region I  
King of Prussia, PA 19406-1415

Dear Ms. Johanson:

This letter is in response to your letter of January 10, 1994 concerning further information on our control of nuclear pacemakers. Thank you for the 10 day extension.

A "more vigilant correspondence" refers to the Radiation Safety Office (RSO) sending a registered letter to each patient, attending physician, nearest of kin and nursing home (if appropriate) on a quarterly basis (see attachments). A questionnaire will be included with the letters to patients and physicians. If they are not returned in the self-addressed stamped envelope within 2 weeks, a telephone call will be made to determine the reason. The short questionnaire will contain specific questions concerning the ID bracelets and ID cards. If the answer is "no" to having a card or bracelet then a new card or bracelet will have to be sent to the patient.

I am unable, at this time, to verify that the six patients in question were wearing their ID cards and/or bracelets at the time of death.

The Washington Hospital Center Arrhythmia Center has been and is in contact with patients for follow-up visits with those in the area, and in verbal or mail contact with the physicians for these patients outside the area. The RSO will get patient's relative information from the Arrhythmia Center files and will verify the information through the patient questionnaire.

If you have any further questions concerning this matter, please contact Mr. Kenneth D. Williams at (202) 877-3949.

Sincerely,



Mark Merrill  
Vice President for Operations

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PDR ADDCK 03001325  
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110 IRVING STREET, N.W.  
  WASHINGTON, D.C.  
  20010

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RETURN ORIGINAL TO  
REGION I



FEB 10 1994

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Letter to pacemaker patient's nearest kin

February 3, 1994

Nearest kin's name  
Address  
Address  
City etc

Dear Kin's name:

As the new Radiation Safety Officer of the Washington Hospital Center, I am writing to you concerning Mr./Ms. \_\_\_\_\_ who, according to our records, is wearing a nuclear pacemaker that contains, Plutonium 238, a special nuclear material that is tightly regulated by the United States Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC). The Washington Hospital Center is required by Federal regulations to track and retrieve all nuclear pacemakers issued under its NRC license. These pacemakers **MUST NOT** be buried, thrown in the trash or otherwise discarded. They **MUST** be returned to the Washington Hospital Center immediately when no longer needed.

It is extremely important that you are aware of this nuclear pacemaker and that your \_\_\_\_\_ is wearing an ID or Med-Alert bracelet which contains information concerning the pacemaker. Please notify the Washington Hospital Center, Sandra Waclawski, RN (202) 877-7685, **IMMEDIATELY** in case of pacemaker removal, death, accident, admission to a hospital, nursing home or a retirement home.

If your \_\_\_\_\_ is not wearing an ID or Med-Alert bracelet or if you have any questions, please contact Mr. Kenneth D. Williams at (202) 877-3949 or Mr. Terry Lane at (202) 877-5631.

Sincerely yours,

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Kenneth D. Williams, MS  
Radiation Safety Officer

Letter to Nursing Homes

February 3, 1994

Nursing Home  
Address  
Address  
City etc

Dear Contact's name:

As the new Radiation Safety Officer of the Washington Hospital Center, I am writing to you concerning Mr./Ms. \_\_\_\_\_ who, according to our records, is residing at this Home. This person is wearing a nuclear pacemaker that contains, Plutonium 238, a special nuclear material that is tightly regulated by the United States Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC). The Washington Hospital Center is required by Federal regulations to track and retrieve all nuclear pacemakers issued under its NRC license. These pacemakers **MUST NOT** be buried, thrown in the trash or otherwise discarded. They **MUST** be returned to the Washington Hospital Center immediately when no longer needed.

It is extremely important that you are aware of this nuclear pacemaker. This person should be wearing an ID or Med-Alert bracelet that contains information regarding the pacemaker. Please notify Sandra Waclawski, RN (202) 877-7685, **IMMEDIATELY** in case of pacemaker removal, death, accident, admission to a hospital or another home.

If this person is not wearing an ID or Med-Alert bracelet or you have any questions, please contact Mr. Kenneth D. Williams at (202) 877-3949 or Mr. Terry Lane at (202) 877-5631.

Sincerely yours,

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Kenneth D. Williams, MS  
Radiation Safety Officer

# NUCLEAR REGULATORY REQUIREMENT

## NUCLEAR PACEMAKER QUESTIONNAIRE

Please answer the following and return in the self-addressed stamped envelope. If you have any questions, contact Mr. Kenneth Williams at (202) 877-3949 or Mr. Terry Lane at (202) 877-5631.

1. Name of pacemaker wearer: \_\_\_\_\_
2. Do you contemplate a change in your residence in the next year?
3. Name and Address of Nearest of Kin: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Telephone Number: (\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_ - \_\_\_\_\_ Relationship: \_\_\_\_\_

4. Do you have an ID or Med-Alert ID Bracelet indicating that you are wearing a nuclear pacemaker? Yes No
5. If Yes, Is ID Bracelet worn constantly? Yes No
6. Do you have an ID card indicating <sup>that</sup> that you are wearing a nuclear pacemaker? Yes No
7. If Yes, do you carry this card with you at all times? Yes No
8. Name, Address and Telephone Number of your Family Physician:  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

9. Have you seen your physician within past 3 months? Yes No

Questionnaire completed by: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_ Relationship: \_\_\_\_\_

Letter to pacemaker physicians

February 9, 1994

Physicians's name  
Address  
Address  
City etc

RE: Patient's name

Dear Doctor:

As the new Radiation Safety Officer of the Washington Hospital Center, I am writing to remind you that, according to our records, this patient is wearing a nuclear pacemaker which contains, Plutonium 238, a special nuclear material that is tightly regulated by the United States Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC). The Washington Hospital Center is required by Federal regulations to track and retrieve all nuclear pacemakers issued under its NRC license. These pacemakers **MUST NOT** be buried, thrown in the trash or otherwise discarded. They **MUST** be returned to the Washington Hospital Center immediately when no longer needed.

It is extremely important that you remind your patient to wear an ID or Med-Alert bracelet, at all times, to identify that he/she is wearing a nuclear pacemaker in case of pacemaker removal, death, accident or admission to a hospital, nursing home or a retirement home. Please notify Sandra Wacławski, RN (202) 877-7685, **IMMEDIATELY** if any of these happen.

I am asking you to help us in this matter by answering the questions on the enclosed questionnaire. If you have any questions contact Mr. Kenneth D. Williams at (202) 877-3949 or Mr. Terry Lane at (202) 877-5631.

Please return the questionnaire in the enclosed self-addressed stamped envelope and thank you for your cooperation.

Sincerely yours,

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Kenneth D. Williams, MS  
Radiation Safety Officer

# NUCLEAR REGULATORY REQUIREMENT

## NUCLEAR PACEMAKER QUESTIONNAIRE

Please answer the following and return in the self-addressed stamped envelope. If you have any questions, contact Mr. Kenneth Williams at (202) 877-3949 or Mr. Terry Lane at (202) 877-5631.

1. Name of pacemaker wearer: \_\_\_\_\_
2. Have you communicated with the patient within the past three months?      Yes      No
3. If yes, has the patient's health status changed significantly?  
\_\_\_\_\_
4. Was patient reminded of the importance of wearing an ID or Med-Alert bracelet and carrying an ID card indicating a nuclear pacemaker?      Yes      No
5. Has the patient been admitted to Nursing Home or Retirement Home within the past three months?      Yes      No
6. If yes, provide the name and address of facility: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
- Telephone Number: (    )    -    \_\_\_\_\_
7. Please provide any other information that you think may be useful in helping us track and retrieve this patient's pacemaker.

Questionnaire completed by: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Letter to pacemaker patients

February 3, 1994

Patient's name  
Address  
Address  
City etc

Dear Patient's name:

As the new Radiation Safety Officer of the Washington Hospital Center, I am writing to remind you that the nuclear pacemaker you are wearing contains, Plutonium 238, a special nuclear material that is tightly regulated by the United States Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC). The Washington Hospital Center is required by Federal regulation to track and retrieve all nuclear pacemakers issued under its NRC license. These pacemakers **MUST NOT** be buried, thrown in the trash or otherwise discarded. They **MUST** be returned to the Washington Hospital Center immediately when no longer needed.

It is extremely important that you wear an ID or Med-Alert bracelet at all times to identify that you wear a nuclear pacemaker in case of removal, accident, admission to a hospital or a retirement home.

I am asking you to help us in this matter by answering the questions on the enclosed questionnaire. If you have any questions contact Mr. Kenneth D. Williams at (202) 877-3949 or Mr. Terry Lane at (202) 877-5631.

Please return the questionnaire in the enclosed self-addressed stamped envelope and thank you for your cooperation.

Sincerely yours,

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Kenneth D. Williams, MS  
Radiation Safety Officer