

December 13, 1993

LIMINARY NOTIFICATION OF EVENT OR UNUSUAL OCCURRENCE PNO-II-93-072

This preliminary notification constitutes EARLY notice of events of POSSIBLE safety or public interest significance. The information is as initially received without verification or evaluation, and is basically all that is known by the Region II staff on this date.

Facility

Hospital Metropolitano
San Juan, Puerto Rico
Dockets: 03011155 License No: 52-16033-01

Licensee Emergency Classification

Notification of Unusual Event
Alert
Site Area Emergency
General Emergency
X Not Applicable

Subject: BRACHYTHERAPY MISADMINISTRATION

At 12:56 p.m. on December 11, 1993, the licensee informed the NRC Operations Center of a misadministration from brachytherapy sources that took place on December 11, 1993.

At 5:30 p.m. on December 9, 1993, three Cesium 137 sources with a total activity of 30 millicuries contained in a cylindrical applicator were gynecologically implanted into the patient. The prescribed treatment time required the applicator to remain in place until 6:00 p.m. on December 11, 1993. At 9:30 a.m. on December 11, 1993, the oncologist entered the patient room and discovered that the patient had removed the implant and left it laying on the bed next to the patient's leg. The patient told hospital personnel that she had inadvertently removed the applicator at approximately 7:30 a.m. that morning while she was asleep. The sources were removed from the patient's room and returned to storage. The licensee has not conducted an assessment of the dose to the thigh. The patient's attending physician has been notified of the incident. The licensee indicated that no adverse effects of the external dose to the patient's thigh are anticipated.

Region II will perform a special inspection to review the circumstances surrounding the event.

The NMSS Misadministration/Medical Consultant Coordinator has been informed.

The Commonwealth of Puerto Rico has been informed.

This information is current as of 2:00 p.m. on December 13, 1993.

Contact: C. Hosey
(404)331-5614

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