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PRELIMINARY NOTIFICATION OF EVENT OR UNUSUAL OCCURRENCE PNO-III-94-42

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 III staff on this date.

Facility

Mid Michigan Regional
Medical Center
Midland, MI
License No. 21-01549-02

Licensee Emergency Classification

General Emergency
Site Area Emergency
Alert
Unusual Event
X Not Applicable

Subject: POSSIBLE MEDICAL MISADMINISTRATION

On June 3, 1994, Region III (Chicago) received a letter dated May 25, 1994 from the licensee that a patient undergoing a brachytherapy treatment on May 16, 1994 received an unintended radiation skin dose to the thigh when a cesium-137 implant source became dislodged. The dislodged source contained 39 millicuries of cesium-137.

The patient's written prescription called for the loading of six sealed cesium sources into an applicator for implanting on May 16, 1994. Six hours after the implanting, the applicator was checked and found to be in its proper position. However, on May 17, 1994, twelve hours later, the right carrier containing a cesium-137 source had come out of the applicator and was found lying in its carrier under the patient's right thigh. The carrier with the source was replaced into the applicator and re-implanted with a screw cap that was found by the patient's head.

The licensee does not know how long the source was dislodged from the applicator. The licensee has been asked to provide the range of exposure to the patient from the unintended radiation exposure of the source to the thigh.

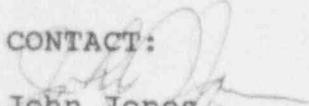
The licensee did not observe any erythema to the skin where the source made contact. The patient was notified of the incident. Other 10 CFR Part 35 notification requirements are being reviewed by the licensee.

Region III (Chicago) will conduct an inspection to evaluate the circumstances surrounding the incident later this week. A medical consultant will be contracted to review the medical implications of the event.

The State of Michigan and NMSS have been notified. The information in this preliminary notification has been reviewed with licensee management.

This information is current as of 02:30 p.m. (CDT) on June 6, 1994.

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