



Berkshire Medical Center

BERKSHIRE HEALTH SYSTEMS

Radiation Oncology Department
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Michael F. Sheridan, M.D.
Medical Director

November 1, 1990

U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission
Region I
475 Allendale Road
King of Prussia, PA 19406

Attention: Mohamed M. Shanbakey, Chief
Nuclear Materials Safety Section A
Division of Radiation Safety and Safeguards

Dear Sir:

re: Corrective Action for the Recent Inspection
License Nos. 20-12009-01
20-12009-03
SNM-1439

This is in response to your letter of October 4, 1990, regarding the violations identified in the recent inspection. The appropriate corrective actions have been taken for the following violations:

- Item A1a: To meet the special requirement of the quarterly linearity tests of the dose calibrator, we have started performing these tests using Tc-99m sample in the range above 100 millicuries.
- Item A1b: Due to the shortage of staff, the technologists on duty forgot to do the constancy test of the dose calibrator when the chief nuclear medicine technologist was on vacation. The problem of coverage of duty has been resolved and further violations will be avoided.
- Item A2a: Due to shortage of staff, the technologists on duty failed to perform daily survey of the elution, preparation and injection areas for the chief nuclear medicine technologist who was on vacation. Arrangements have been made to prevent further recurrence.
- Item A2b: In order to determine disintegrations per minute, a Cobalt-57 source in the order of one nanocurie is used as the reference source. The Radiation Safety Officer has provided the decay data of the source in terms of disintegrations per minute. The decay curve of the disintegrations per minute is plotted using semilog graph paper. A formula relating disintegrations per minute and counts per minute is also shown on the graph paper. This equation will be used by technologists for evaluating disintegrations per minute of the wipes.

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A Major Affiliated Teaching Hospital of the University of Massachusetts Medical School

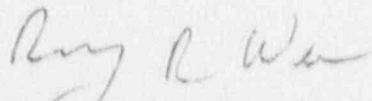
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Mohamed M. Sharbakey, Chief
November 1, 1990
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Item B: I have contacted the doctors who are currently following those patients and discussed with them the requirements of following patients with nuclear pacemakers. They indicated to me that the follow-up of these patients had been performed as frequently as required by Condition 15 of License No. SNM-1439. I have requested these doctors to send me the recent follow-up data for review.

Please let us know if further information is needed.

Sincerely,



Ruey R. Wu, Ph.D.
Chief Radiation Physicist
Radiation Safety Officer

pc: Matthew Fulton
Vice President of Professional Services

Joseph A. Levine, M.D.
Chairman, Radiation Safety Committee

Richard Harry
Administrative Director of Radiology