



DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS
Ioannis A. Lougaris Medical Center
1000 Locust Street
Reno NV 89520

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July 6, 1994

In Reply Refer To: 654/00Q

Mr. Dave Skov
Nuclear Regulatory Commission
Region V
1450 Maria Lane
Walnut Creek, CA 94596-5368

Dear Mr. Skov:

As a follow up to your survey of June 6-7, 1994, the Ioannis A. Lougaris VA Medical Center wishes to submit the following response.

The exit interview with your surveyors indicated that there were opportunities for improvement in the areas of education, quality assessment and improvement, and safety procedures. An evaluation of these recommendations was performed and the following actions are now being instituted:

1. The current nuclear medicine technologist has resigned and recruiting is in progress for a full time replacement.
2. A skills check list is being developed along with an orientation program to assure competency in all required processes.
3. The key processes within the diagnostic procedure will be identified and indicators put in place to assure compliance.
4. The physicist consultant contract is being reevaluated to include a more comprehensive evaluation. Recruiting is currently underway.
5. Mr. Ed Leidholt, VHA Western Region, Radiation Safety Manager, is being utilized as a mentor/consultant to assist with improvement of the Nuclear Medicine program.
6. Storage shed for radioactive waste materials is now being surveyed weekly.
7. Survey instruments are being calibrated.
8. The transcriptionist has been trained in Radiation Safety. The Nuclear Medicine and Research technicians are being trained in proper survey procedures and recordkeeping. The cardiology personnel are being scheduled for training.
9. The cardiology lab is being surveyed after use and the Nuclear Medicine area is being surveyed in the afternoons.
10. The generator area is being included in the wipe test.
11. Both the Nuclear Medicine and Research technicians are scheduled to be trained to convert CPM to DPM.
12. The Nuclear Medicine technician now surveys his hands after using radioisotopes.

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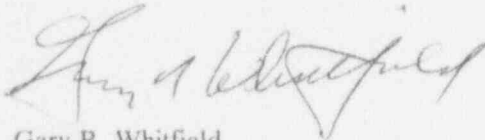
Dave Skov, Nuclear Regulatory Commission

13. The biweekly survey records are being kept by Research.
14. The Nuclear Medicine technician has been trained in the preparation of survey records.
15. Several inaccuracies in the computer have been corrected and training for the computer package will be scheduled.
16. The survey meter will be recorded on future Nuclear Medicine disposal records.
17. Research is now maintaining records of DIS.
18. The syringe shields are now being labelled with the patient's name.

Upon the receipt of the final report, we will address any other issues that are not outlined above.

If you have any questions regarding this action plan feel free to contact Lee Darrah, M.D., Chairman, Radiation Safety Committee at 702/328-1612.

Sincerely,



Gary R. Whitfield
Medical Center Director