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MARY HITCHCOCK MEMORIAL HOSPITAL

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Manchester, New Hampshire 03102

OFFICE OF SECRETARY
DOCKETING & SERVICE
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October 31, 1983

William T. Wallace Jr., M.D., M.P.N.
Director of Public Health Services
State of New Hampshire Hazen Drive
Concord, NH 03301

Dear Dr. Wallace:

I am responding to your request for information regarding our capabilities for caring for individuals who may be exposed to radioactive material, contaminated by radioactive material, or both. Few institutions have had an opportunity to deal with accidents of this nature so it is not possible to predict with certainty how we would perform in these circumstances. I can offer the following opinion, however.

Mary Hitchcock can normally accommodate four or five acute leukemic patients who require the same kind of protective treatment as do patients exposed to large amounts of radiation. We are capable of providing complete medical services to these patients even though we do not have laminar flow rooms which some people believe to be desirable in treatment of this nature. If we were faced with a major disaster which justified discontinuation of many of our other services, we could accommodate perhaps two hundred patients.

We are able to provide services to four or five radiologically contaminated patients who are also in need of medical care. This is in addition to our other capabilities.

Our procedures call for our morgue to be converted to a decontamination/treatment area. The morgue has a separate outside entryway and may be quickly modified to prevent contamination of other hospital areas. A second area, again with a separate outside entryway, may be quickly converted to provide a decontamination area for individuals who may be contaminated but require no medical care.

We would set up to treat acute medical emergencies as we decontaminate the patient. Controls are in place to prevent contamination of hospital personnel; however, they may be subject to some radioactive exposure during the decontamination and treatment processes. Again, our procedures are carefully designed to minimize the amount of time any one person would be exposed.

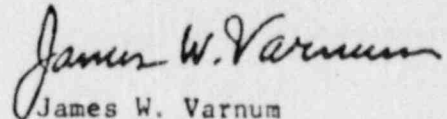
The Hospital has a written protocol for responding to radiologically contaminated individuals. Staff who can execute the protocol should always be available. A drill, including mock casualties with both injuries and

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radioactive contamination, is conducted once a year to test our response capability.

The Hospital would be pleased to work with you to develop an agreement whereby we would provide medical or radiation safety services during a radiological emergency. We would also welcome the opportunity to participate in the planning of such services on a broader, regional or statewide scale.

Sincerely,


James W. Varnum
President

JWV/pb