

DCS No: 99999880823
Date: August 23, 1988

PRELIMINARY NOTIFICATION OF EVENT OR UNUSUAL OCCURRENCE--PNO-I-88-87

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 I staff on this date.

Facility:
Rochester General Hospital
Rochester, New York
(Agreement State Licensee)

Licensee Emergency Classification:
☐ Notification of Unusual Event
☐ Alert
☐ Site Area Emergency
☐ General Emergency
☒ Not Applicable

SUBJECT: POSSIBLE TELETHERAPY MISADMINISTRATIONS

On August 23, 1988, the State of New York Department of Health reported to Region I that they received information through another State agency (Health Systems Management) concerning possible teletherapy misadministrations at Rochester General Hospital. In May 1988, the licensee's physicist upgraded the computer software used in treatment planning. During the process an error was apparently made in entering wedge factors into the software. (Lead wedges are sometimes placed in the teletherapy beam to create asymmetrical fields for treatment purposes.) As a result, the licensee believes that 18 patients received doses "in excess of prescribed doses."

The State has dispatched an inspector to the hospital and as more information is obtained, updates will be provided.

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