

November 20, 2003

THIS EVENT IS NOT FOR PUBLIC DISCLOSURE PER AGREEMENT STATE REQUEST UNTIL 11/21/03.

PRELIMINARY NOTIFICATION OF EVENT OR UNUSUAL OCCURRENCE -- PNO-IV-03-049

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 IV staff on this date.

Facility

Swedish Medical Center
Seattle, Washington
License No.:WN-M008-1
Washington Agreement State Licensee

Licensee Emergency Classification

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

SUBJECT: MEDICAL MISADMINISTRATION INVOLVING INTRAVASCULAR BRACHYTHERAPY

DESCRIPTION:

On November 18, 2003, the Washington Department of Health, Office of Radiation Protection (the State) notified the NRC Operations Center of a medical misadministration which occurred on November 18, 2003, at Swedish Medical Center (Agreement State licensee) in Seattle, Washington.

The licensee reported that the event occurred during the treatment of a patient for coronary restenosis using a Novoste Beta-Cath device (Serial No. ZB638) containing a 2.9 gigabequerel (78 millicurie) sealed source-train of strontium-90/yttrium-90 (Serial No. 91837). The licensee reported that the source-train was partially inserted into the patient when the cardiologist experienced difficulty because of the location of the treatment site. The cardiologist then discussed correcting the problem with the oncologist before retracting the source train. The licensee indicated that 143 seconds elapsed before the source-train was retracted which resulted in 13.78 gray (1378 rad) exposure to healthy patient tissue. The licensee does not expect any adverse health effects. The referring physician and the patient were notified of the event. The licensee and the State are continuing to investigate the event.

Region IV received notification of this occurrence from NRC's Operations Center on November 18, 2003. Region IV has informed OEDO, NMSS, OSTP, and the Region's PAO and SLO.

This information has been discussed with the State and is current as of 2:30 p.m. on November 19, 2003.

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