

November 26, 2003

*This Event is not for public disclosure per Agreement State request until 11/28/03*

**PRELIMINARY NOTIFICATION OF EVENT OR UNUSUAL OCCURRENCE -- PNO-III-03-044**

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 III staff on this date.

Facility

Advocate Lutheran General Hospital  
Oak Lawn, Illinois  
License: IL-01152-01  
(Agreement State licensee)

Licensee Emergency Classification

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

SUBJECT: MEDICAL EVENT INVOLVING AN INTRAVASCULAR BRACHYTHERAPY  
PROCEDURE

DESCRIPTION:

On November 25, 2003, the Illinois Emergency Management Agency (IEMA) notified the NRC Operations Center of a medical event, involving a Novoste Beta-Cath A1767 intravascular brachytherapy system, that occurred at the Advocate Lutheran General Hospital in Oak Lawn, Illinois. The Novoste system source train contained approximately 48.4 millicuries of strontium-90.

On November 24, 2003, the hospital reported to IEMA that, earlier that day during a cardiac therapy, the source train did not reach the intended location at the end of the catheter but was apparently stuck in a kinked area of the catheter. The source train was immediately retracted into the shield and a second attempt was made with the same result. The procedure was then terminated and an event analysis was performed and dose estimates were calculated.

Essentially none of the prescribed 1840 rad dose was delivered to the intended area of the heart. The estimated dose to an unintended area of the heart was approximately 500 rads. Hospital physicians do not expect any adverse medical effects to the patient from this event. The hospital will consult with Novoste to try to determine the cause of the problem and will submit a 15-day report to IEMA. The patient will be notified of the medical event.

The NRC's Office of State and Tribal Programs and Office of Nuclear Materials Safety and Safeguards have been notified. The NRC's Region III (Chicago) Office is monitoring the State's investigation. The information in this Preliminary Notification was reviewed with the State. This information is current as of 2:00 p.m. CST on November 25, 2003.

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