Hazleton General Hospital

700 E. Broad Street | Hazleton, PA 18201 | T 570.501.4000 | www.ghha.org

July 19, 2006

Penny Lanzisera
Health Physicist
Nuclear Materials Safety Branch 1
Division of Nuclear Materials Safety
U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission, Region 1
475 Allendale Road
King of Prussia, PA 19406-1415

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MS-16

NRC License No: 37-27899-01 03029536
Re: Mail Control No: 138999

Dear Ms. Lanzisera

This is in response to your e-mail of July 19, 2006 with regard to our request to utilize materials in 35.400 at the Hazleton General Hospital.

We currently wish to limit our use of materials listed in 35.400 to I-125. If we wish to use other 35.400 materials in the future, we will request their use at that time.

In addition, we will only obtain materials directly from the manufacturer or a supplier who meets the criteria listed in 10CFR 35.49 "Suppliers of sealed sources or devices for medical use".

Emergency response equipment available for manual brachytherapy facilities:

One Geiger counter, Model 14C, equipped with a sodium iodide crystal detector; Manufactured by Ludlum Measurements, Inc, Sweetwater, Texas

One ionization chamber survey meter, Model 450,
Manufactured by Ludlum Measurements, Inc, Sweetwater, Texas

Lead vials with lead caps for containing retrieved I-125 seeds. The lead vials Have a visible radioactive material sticker to identify its contents.

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NMSS/RGN1 MATERIALS-002

I-125 seeds will be stored in the hot lab of the nuclear medicine department prior to use and residual seeds will be stored in the hot lab prior to return to the manufacturer for disposal.

We will maintain the Geiger counter, Model 14C equipped with the sodium iodide crystal detector, manufactured by Ludlum Measurements, Inc., in the OR during procedures to locate any dislodged I-125 sees during implantation or after the patients surgery.

Following the seed implantation, the patient will be sent to our short stay recovery room. Since the total amount of I-125 seeds implanted would rarely exceed 80 mCi (about 200 seeds with an activity of 0.4 mCi/seed), and because of the low energy radiation emitted by I-125, the exposure rate at the patient's bedside would be less than 0.2 mR/hr. Thus, no additional shielding would be required in the short stay recovery room. The patient is generally sent home after a few hours in the recovery room. A labeled lead container (with lid) and a pair of forceps will be maintained with the patient in the recovery room in the event an I-125 seed is dislodged, it can be recovered and placed in the shielded container for future disposal. In the event we measure an exposure rate in excess of 0.2 mR/hr at the patient's bedside in the recovery room, a portable shield will be used to reduce the exposure level in the room.

If you require any additional information, please feel free to contact us at (570)501-4123 or Sam Payne at (570) 477-3925.

Thank you again for your prompt attention to this amendment request.

Sincerely,

James Edwards
President and Chief Executive Officer