

Date: December 31, 1992

PRELIMINARY NOTIFICATION OF EVENT OR UNUSUAL OCCURRENCE PN19276

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:

Boston University Medical Center
88 East Newton Street
Boston, Massachusetts 02118

Licensee Emergency Classification:

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

Docket No.: 030-01845

License No.: 20-02215-01

Event No.: NONE

Event Location Code: HOS

Subject: LOSS OF 1.0 MILLICURIE OF IODINE-125 SEEDS IN PATIENT'S HOME

On December 29, 1992, Region I was notified by the Agreement State of New Hampshire's Bureau of Radiological Health of an event concerning the dislodging from a patient of 1.0 millicurie of Iodine-125. The Iodine-125 was implanted as 36 encapsulated seeds by Boston University Medical Center on November 2, 1992. On December 25, 1992 the patient and his wife noticed the escape of seeds through his rectum and called Exeter Hospital in New Hampshire. The hospital notified the above agency of the State of New Hampshire, who, in turn, notified Region I.

The seeds were traced to Boston University Medical Center (BUMC), who was notified on December 29, 1992. A physicist was dispatched immediately by BUMC to the patient's home, where 14 seeds were retrieved. Five others were believed lost down the toilet or in the trash. On December 30, 1992, the patient went to BUMC where 22 seeds were found still in place. The wound was closed and the patient sent home with a lead pig and further radiation safety instructions.

The BUMC Director of Radiation Protection said that on November 2, 1992, at the time of the patient's discharge, he surveyed the patient in accordance with 10 CFR 35.75, and released him with instructions to be followed in case of emergency. This information is current as of 2.00 p.m., December 31, 1992.

The State of Massachusetts has been notified. No adverse effects are expected to result from this event, either to the patient, public, or to the environment.

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DCS No: 03001845921225

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