

SEP 20 1996

John F. McCarron  
Vice President, Medical Support Services  
Baystate Health Systems, Inc.  
759 Chestnut Street  
Springfield, Massachusetts 01199

SUBJECT: INSPECTION NOS. 030-09946/96-001 AND 030-00230/96-001

Dear Mr. McCarron:

A routine inspection of your licensed program, conducted by a member of my staff on January 31 through February 2, 1996, identified two violations of NRC requirements. These violations were described in a letter and Notice of Violation dated March 13, 1996. One violation was cited because it was the inspector's understanding from speaking with your staff that the efficiency of a counting system used to evaluate leak tests of strontium-90 sealed sources had not been determined. A second violation was cited because the record of the survey performed prior to the release of patients who had been treated with temporary brachytherapy implants did not include the exposure rate measured at a distance of one meter from the patient. Our letter required that you respond to the Notice of Violation describing specific actions taken and any additional actions you planned to prevent recurrence.

Your response dated April 11, 1996 requested that we reconsider our decision to cite the two violations in light of the supporting documentation that you enclosed with your letter.

We reviewed your response and, in a letter dated June 14, 1996, requested that you provide additional information regarding the calibration of the counting system used to evaluate leak tests of strontium-90 sealed sources. Our letter also attempted to clarify the requirements for post implant surveys described in 10 CFR 35.406(c) and 35.415(a)(4) and the requirements for patient release surveys described in 10 CFR 35.404, and requested that you confirm that your record of patient survey, performed prior to the release of a patient treated with a temporary brachytherapy implant, will be expressed as millirem per hour measured at one meter from the patient.

We have reviewed your July 10, 1996 response and, based on the additional information that you provided regarding the calibration of the counting system used to evaluate leak tests of strontium-90 sealed sources, Item A of the Notice of Violation is retracted.

Thank you for informing us of the corrective and preventive actions documented in your letter with regard to Item B of the Notice of Violation. These actions will be examined during a future inspection of your licensed program.

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John F. McCarron

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Your cooperation with us is appreciated.

Sincerely,

Original Signed By:  
Mohamed M. Shanbaky

Mohamed M. Shanbaky, Ph.D., Chief  
Nuclear Materials Safety Branch 1  
Division of Nuclear Materials Safety

Docket Nos. 030-09946  
030-00230  
License Nos. 20-01412-05  
20-01412-03

cc:  
Suresh M. Brahmavar, Ph.D., Radiation Safety Officer  
Commonwealth of Massachusetts

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