

February 28, 1997

Mohammed M. Shanbaky, Ph.D.  
Chief/Nuclear Materials Safety Branch 1  
475 Allendale Road  
King of Prussia, PA 19107

RE: Gamma Knife Unit No. 468  
License No. 37-00783-05  
Docket No. 030-33972

Dear Dr. Shanbaky:

There was a problem with the "bed-out" switch on the unit not properly engaging. This resulted in a continuous flashing "patient-out" console light which would have prevented the radiation door closure in a treatment situation. This flashing light was detected during a routine daily warm up procedure. The light was flashing although the Gamma Knife unit was off and the bed appeared to be fully out. However, during a telephone conversation with Elekta, the contact that activates the switch was adjusted and treatment began without incident.

A few days later while treating another patient, the "patient out" light continued to flash although the bed was fully retracted allowing the radiation door on the unit to remain open. The shielding door lever in the hydraulic room was repositioned to initiate and complete closure of the door. Elekta was called in to service the unit. There has been no further recurrence since the February 3, 1997 incident.

Respectfully,

*M. Beverly Downes*

M. Beverly Downes, M.S., D.A.B.R.  
Medical Physicist/Radiation Safety Officer  
Wills Eye Hospital

cc: David Andrews, M.D.  
Director of Radiosurgery

Karla McCaney  
Assistant Executive Director

Caroline Agnew  
Manager, Ancillary Services

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