

May 8, 1997

PRELIMINARY NOTIFICATION OF EVENT OR UNUSUAL OCCURRENCE PNO-III-97-041

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 Region III staff (Lisle, Illinois) on this date.

Facility
GOOD SAMARITAN HOSPITAL
Good Samaritan Hospital
Cincinnati, Ohio
License No: 34-00991-02

Licensee Emergency Classification
Notification of Unusual Event
Alert
Site Area Emergency
General Emergency
X Not Applicable

Subject: CONTAMINATED PACKAGE EXCEEDS NRC REQUIREMENTS

On May 8, 1997, the licensee notified NRC Region III (Chicago) that a package was received from Syncor International's pharmacy in Blue Ash, Ohio, which exceeded the NRC regulatory limits. Upon receipt of the package on May 8, 1997, the licensee's Radiation Safety Officer (RSO) performed a wipe test of the package and found 31,561 disintegrations per minute (dpm) of radioactive contamination near the package's handle (NRC's limit is 2,200 dpm per 100 square centimeters. The radioactive contaminant was determined to be technetium-99m. The package contained 40 millicuries (1,480 MBq) of technetium-99m. All subsequent contamination wipes of the package found no additional contamination.

Upon notification by the licensee's RSO of the package contamination, Syncor pharmacy staff performed a survey of the delivery vehicle and driver. No contamination was found. Prior to shipping the package to the licensee, Syncor staff performed a confirmatory survey and no contamination was identified.

NRC Region IV (Arlington) will monitor Syncor International's follow-up of the event. NRC Region III will review the event during the next inspection of the Syncor, Blue Ash, OH pharmacy.

The State of Ohio, NRC Region IV and NRC Office of Nuclear Material Safety and Safeguards have been notified. The information in this preliminary notification has been reviewed with licensee management.

NRC Region III was notified of this event at 8:00 a.m. (CDT) on May 8, 1997. This information is current as of 11:30 a.m. (CDT) on May 8, 1997.

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