

DCS No.:

03002618970509

Date:

May 15, 1997

PRELIMINARY NOTIFICATION OF EVENT OR UNUSUAL OCCURRENCE PN1-97-029

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:

Department of Veterans Affairs Medical Center  
3495 Bailey Avenue  
Buffalo, New York 14215

## Licensee Emergency Classification:

\_\_\_\_ Notification of Unusual Event  
\_\_\_\_ Alert  
\_\_\_\_ Site Area Emergency  
\_\_\_\_ General Emergency  
XX Not Applicable

Docket No.: 030-02618

License No.: 31-00786-02

Event No.:

Event Location Code:

SUBJECT: APPARENT MISADMINISTRATION INVOLVING UNDER-DOSING A PATIENT WITH I-131

On May 14, 1997, the licensee reported a misadministration to the Headquarters Duty Officer. The licensee stated that on Friday, May 9, 1997, they administered 54 microcuries (uCi) of Iodine-131 (I-131), approximately one percent of the prescribed dose of 5 millicuries (mCi), to a patient for a whole body scan. Two technologists were involved in the measurement of the dose. The first technologist picked up the wrong capsule, assayed it and recorded 54 uCi, without comparing the measured dose to the prescribed dose. The second technologist noted that the dose measured in the dose calibrator was 54 uCi but also failed to verify that this was the correct prescribed dose.

When the patient returned to the department as scheduled on Tuesday, May 13, 1997, the licensee noted a lack of activity when attempting to perform the whole body scan. The correct capsule was assayed and verified, the authorized user prepared a second written directive authorizing the administration of what was then 3.6 mCi of I-131 for a whole body scan. The patient was properly identified and the dose was administered.

Region I will perform an inspection of the nuclear medicine program and implementation of the licensee's quality management program.

The State of New York has been notified.

The Public Affairs Office is prepared to respond to media inquiries.

This information is current as of 11:30 a.m., May 15, 1997.

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\*\* General list for sending PNs by FAX

Region I Form 83

(Rev. August 1996)