



October 28, 2022

On Tuesday, October 18, 2022 the Nuclear Medicine Department at West Valley Medical Center in Caldwell, Idaho was inspected by the NRC. The inspection was conducted by Janine Katanic and Kyle Bischoff. When looking at the written directives done since the last inspection, an I-131 Thyroid Therapy from November 16, 2018 was scrutinized on the dosage ordered. The intended and dosed amount was 20 mCi. The inspector felt like the cursive "m" in mCi looked like a "u" as in uCi. If the written directive was for 20 uCi than this would constitute a medical event.

In treating this like a medical event until we hear differently from the Inspector, I did call the NRC Operations Center on 10/19/2022 and reported the inspection finding. I was given an event number of 56170. Written report below:

Licensee: West Valley Medical Center, Inc. License number 11-27087-01

Prescribing physician: Benjamin K. Hom, M.D.

Event: As stated above, a written directive was flagged by an inspector on 10/18/2022 as being written for 20 uCi I-131 instead of the intended and dosed 20 mCi I-131 for a hyperthyroid therapy.

On 11/16/2018, Dr Benjamin Hom prescribed a I-131 therapy dose for hyperthyroidism. He consulted the patient and was present when the therapy dose of 21.1 mCi I-131 was given to the patient as he intended.

Why the event occurred: The written directive was flagged by an NRC inspection on 10/18/2022 as 20 uCi I-131 instead of the intended and dosed amount of 20 mCi I-131.

The patient was referred to Nuclear Medicine for I-131 thyroid therapy for hyperthyroidism. On 11/16/2018, the patient was dosed with 21.1 mCi I-131 for hyperthyroid therapy.

The effect to the individual who received the administration: Patient received an I-131 therapy dose for treatment of hyperthyroidism as intended.



What actions have been taken to prevent recurrence: As suggested by the inspector, the written directive prescription form and the written directive checklist form previously used at West Valley Medical Center were combined into one single form. The Authorized User now has to circle the word "millicuries" or "microcuries" and initial the selection for the radiopharmaceutical prescription.

An additional line was added to the radiopharmaceutical dosage verification section to include the technologist's verification that the dose to be administered is the dose ordered by the Authorized User. He or She will have to initial date and time on that verification line.

An in-service to all Nuclear Medicine technologists on our written directive procedure to include the updated I-131 Written Directive, Checklist and Verification form. In-service to be repeated annually.

Notification of the individual: The referring doctor was notified on 10/19/22 and feels notification of the individual is not necessary because the patient was treated with the intended dose for [REDACTED] hyperthyroidism.

Notification of the Authorized User/Prescribing Physician: Dr Benjamin Hom was notified by email and follow up phone call on 10/19/22. He states that the dose of 20 mCi for thyroid therapy is what he intended and was given appropriately to the patient.

Notification of referring doctor: The referring physician, Dr J. Foote was notified of this event on 10/19/2022. She feels notification of the individual is not necessary because the patient was treated with the intended dose for [REDACTED] hyperthyroidism.

Respectfully submitted,

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