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DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH
AND ENVIRONMENT

www.kdheks.gov

Division of Health

February 2, 2010

Kansas Information Notice 10-01

Radiation therapy machine training, education and reporting requirements

Addressees

This notice is addressed to all Kansas registrants of radiation therapy machines

Purpose

The purpose of this information notice is to provide information related to regulatory requirements for registrants of radiation therapy machines.

Description of Circumstances

A recent series of articles in The New York Times has raised awareness of the need to review regulatory requirements for reporting medical events as well as the training and qualification of operators and radiation therapy physicists, the requirements for the machine and its operation, and the reporting requirements which can be found in Part X, *SSRCR Volume I - February 1999*, which is adopted by reference in Part 14 of the Kansas Radiation Protection Regulations. Other state or federal agencies may have reporting requirements that need to be satisfied in addition to the Kansas Radiation Protection Regulations requirements.

The following articles appeared in The New York Times in January of 2010. These articles raise questions about the safety of the machines, training of the operators and effectiveness of regulatory oversight. In order to raise awareness of these types of issues, The New York Times articles are cited below. The Kansas Radiation Control Program does not endorse the content of the articles.

Bogdanich, W. (2010, January 23). The Radiation Boom: Radiation Offers New Cures, and Ways to Do Harm. *The New York Times*. Retrieved from <http://www.nytimes.com/2010/01/24/health/24radiation.html?pagewanted=1&hp>

Bogdanich, W. (2010, January 26). The Radiation Boom: As Technology Surges, Radiation Safeguards Lag. *The New York Times*. Retrieved from <http://www.nytimes.com/2010/01/27/us/27radiation.html?hpw>

Bogdanich, W. (2010, January 26). The Radiation Boom: They Check the Medical Equipment, but Who Is Checking Up on Them? *The New York Times*. Retrieved from <http://www.nytimes.com/2010/01/27/us/27sideradiation.html>

Kansas Radiation Protection Regulations

Click on this link to visit the Kansas Radiation Protection Regulations web page.

<http://www.kdheks.gov/radiation/regs.html>

The Kansas Radiation Control Program recommends that recipients of this notice review the requirements in Part X. Topics in Part 14, which adopts Part X, include, in part

- Training for Radiation Therapy Authorized Users and Physicists Sec X.3 c & d.
- Qualifications of Operators Sec X.3 e.
- Technical Requirements for Facilities Using Therapeutic Radiation Machines including protection surveys, Dosimetry, reports of surveys and measurements Sec X.4 a, c, d.
- Requirement for a Quality Management Plan to which all individuals associated with the operation of a therapeutic radiation machine shall be instructed in and shall comply Sec X.3i
- Contents of a Quality Management Program- Appendix B or C which shall establish and maintain a written quality management program to provide high confidence that radiation will be administered as directed by the

authorized user and shall include investigation, correcting and reporting misadministrations.

- Therapeutic Radiation Machines of Less than 500kV
- Therapeutic Radiation Machines of 500 kV and above
- Calibration of Survey Instruments
- Shielding and Safety Design Requirements

The Kansas Radiation Control Program inspects registrants who have radiation therapy machines. During the inspection, documentation demonstrating compliance with Part 14 of the regulations may be requested by the inspector.

Discussion

No specific action or response is required as a result of this information notice. However the Kansas Department of Health and Environment recommends facilities review their policies, procedures, and Quality Management Plan to ensure correct implementation of prescribed treatment doses. If you have questions regarding this information notice, please contact the Kansas Department of Health and Environment, Radiation Control Section at 785-296-1560.