

APPENDIX P-5

SAFETY PROCEDURES FOR TREATMENTS WHEN PATIENTS ARE HOSPITALIZED

Applicants must develop and implement procedures to ensure that access to therapy treatment rooms, and exposure rates from therapy treatments, are limited to maintain doses to occupational workers and members of the public within regulatory limits.

Section 9	Applicability
RH-8500	
RH-8530	
RH-8550	Y
RH-8600	Y
RH-8620	
RH-8630	Y
RH-8670	Y

Paragraphs RH-8552, RH-8604, and RH-8634 require licensees to take certain safety precautions for uses of radioactive material involving radiopharmaceutical therapy, manual brachytherapy, or remote afterloader brachytherapy involving patients who cannot be released in accordance with RH-8420. This section of the Sub-Appendix does not include guidance on this subject for teletherapy or GSR outpatient treatments. The precautions described below are provided to help ensure compliance with the exposure limits in Section 3 of the Rules and Regulations.

Paragraphs RH-8601 and RH-8631 require licensees to perform a radiation survey of the patient (and the remote afterloader unit) immediately after removing the last temporary implant source from the patient and prior to releasing the patient from licensee control. This is done to confirm that all sources have been removed and accounted for. RH-8634 requires that when sources are placed within the patient's body, licensed activities be limited to treatments that allow for expeditious removal of a decoupled or jammed source.

In addition, applicants must take the following steps for patients who cannot be released under RH-8420:

- Provide a room with a private sanitary facility for patients treated with a radiopharmaceutical therapy dosage (Note: RH-8552 allows for a room shared with another radiopharmaceutical therapy patient);
- Provide a private room for patients implanted with brachytherapy sources (Note: RH-8604 allows for a room shared with another brachytherapy patient);
- Visibly post a "Radioactive Materials" sign on the patient's room and note on the door or in the patient's chart where and how long visitors may stay in the patient's room (RH-8552 and RH-8604);
- Either monitor material and items removed from the patient's room (e.g., patient linens, surgical dressings) with a radiation detection survey instrument set on its most sensitive scale with no interposed shielding to determine that their radioactivity cannot be distinguished from the natural background radiation level or handle them as radioactive waste (RH-8552 and RH-1300); and

- Notify the RSO, or his/her designee, and AU as soon as possible if the patient has a medical emergency or dies (RH-8552, RH-8604, and RH-8634).

Paragraph RH-1300 requires licensees to perform adequate surveys to evaluate the extent of radiation levels. Therefore, licensees must evaluate the dose rates around patients who are hospitalized in accordance with RH-8420 following the dosage administration or implant (e.g., measured dose rates, combination of measured and calculated dose rates).

Paragraph RH-1306 requires licensees to secure licensed material in storage from unauthorized access or removal. Access control and appropriate training of authorized personnel may prevent unauthorized removal of licensed material temporarily stored in the patient's room and unnecessary personnel exposures.

In order to control radiation dose to individuals in accordance with Section 3, the licensee should consider briefing patients on radiation safety procedures for confinement to bed, visitor control, identification of potential problems, notification of medical staff in the event of problems, and other items as applicable and consistent with good medical care.